Hafa Adai!

'Agricultural homesteads not sustainable on Saipan' PAGE 2
Summer flights from Japan to Saipan set. PAGE 5

75¢

Saipan Tribune

REVITALIZED CENTER KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
The family of Wilgene T. Lieto, Derence W. Jack, and military dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially open the military troop store and the newly revitalized Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico.
See story on Page 3

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$12M rebates, child tax out today

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance will be releasing tax rebates, refunds, and child tax checks amounting to a total of $12 million starting today, just 24 days after the filing deadline of April 16, 2018.

In a statement announcing the release of the funds, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson said the first batch of refunds and rebates amount to over $5.7 million for Saipan, $397,998.64 for Tinian, and $430,917.53 for Rota.

Saipan refunds would be released in the mail while the Finance offices for Tinian and
See REBATES on Page 4

CSC chair turns down re-appointment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has re-appointed former Civil Service Commission chair Herman R. Deleon Guerrero to the commission, but the latter turned down the re-appointment yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that Torres informed him in a letter last week of his re-appointment to serve another six years on the commission.

"I'm turning it down. The governor should appoint somebody else," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that he sent a letter yesterday to Torres' secretary, thanking him for his nomination but stating his decision to reject it.

Deleon Guerrero said if the governor had really intended to re-appoint him, he should have done it last January, when his term expired.

Last April 26, *Saipan Tribune* ran a story about Deleon Guerrero's request for Torres
See CSC on Page 4

Torres, Cape Air working out a deal

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres recently met with officials of Cape Air with the hopes that the carrier would continue its Saipan-Guam and Rota-Guam flight services.

Cape Air was United Airlines' partner in operating the Saipan-Guam and Rota-Guam service, but the latter decided to reduce its flights to one a day, which could pose problems especially to the CNMI's off-island medical referral patients.

"What we're trying to do is we're looking at every angle to continue the services between Saipan, Guam, and Rota. Of course, we want to continue the number of services in our islands," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"At the end of the day, we want to see less costs for our
See DEAL on Page 4

Torres expects 'airline interests' within a month

» Governor discusses service routes with Alaska-owned carrier

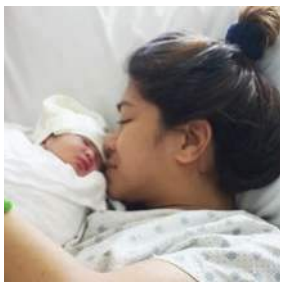
By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is expecting forthcoming "airline interest" after Alaskan businesses met with him during his recent trip to the state.

Torres hinted at possible "airline interest" after spending a week off-island for meetings in Oregon and Alaska. Torres disclosed that he met with several Alaskan businessmen and women, who have expressed their interest in serving flights for the CNMI, but not particu-
See AIRLINE on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Thunder Chicken, a franchise originating in South Korea, has opened a branch on Middle Road.
PAGE 13



SUPPLEMENT
That moment a woman becomes a mother is also a transformative experience for her.
PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas returns tomorrow.
PAGE 32

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Local

'Agricultural homesteads not sustainable on Saipan'

By ERWIN ENCINARS
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REPORTER

The land use plan as presented by a third-party company working with the Department of Public Lands recommends that the agricultural homestead program is no longer suitable for Saipan.

After a monthlong planning and discussion, a project team consisting of several engineering firms—Pacific Engineering Group, formerly known as SSFM CNMI, Chris Hart & Partners Inc., John M. Knox & Associates, Inc., and Myounghee Noh & Associates Inc.—came up with the first draft of the CNMI land use plan.

Working with DPL, the group recommended yesterday a second look at homestead programs for Saipan.

"A really important issue that needs to be addressed in this plan is whether or not the homestead program is sustainable for Saipan. Our opinion is that with the limited amount of land that is suitable for development, it is becoming impractical to proceed with the homestead program [o]n Saipan and so we are making this recommendation and we are discussing that in our public hearings," said Chris Hard & Partners Inc. president Jordan Hart.

The groups made a presentation on the land use plan yesterday to the House of Representatives and Senate.

Though nothing is final yet, the group is still seeking public comments on the plan, which is available at the DPL website, http://www.dpl.gov.mp/draft-land-use-plan-presentation/.

The group noted that the comment period would end on June 15, 2018.

Comments may be submitted in oral or written forms during public hearings. Forms are available through the DPL website. Comments may also be emailed to rreyes@pegsmp.com.

The plan recognized 245 hectares of land suitable for homestead use on Saipan. However, for agricultural homestead use, they believe the program is no longer sustainable.

The group's land planners visited four of the 14 islands of the CNMI. They said the islands north of Agrihan were not evaluated because the islands were located within the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument, which makes them off-limits.

The group did visit Anatahan, Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan and said that all four were suitable for agricultural homesteads, particularly Pagan, where they recommend setting aside 20,000 square meters for the Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

"This is anticipated to include an emergency shelter, mayor's office, clinic, schoolhouse, lodging for mayor's staff, and agricultural homesteaders," they reported, adding that the southeast area of the island is ideal for a primary future homestead site while also recommending that the Department of Public Safety conduct an airstrip and harbor feasibility study.

Pagan was notably the only island of the four to receive recommendations for an airstrip feasibility study, while the three remaining islands had recommendations for a feasibility study for "safe boat and canoe access." The group noted that Pagan has about 273 hectares of land available for agricultural homestead lots.

Anatahan's northwestern area is recommended as the island's primary future homestead site, while the island's south side is recommended to be the secondary homestead site. The group identified 108 hectares for possible agricultural homestead lots and noted that village homestead lots for Anatahan was not in the current form of the land use plan.

Alamagan's northern area is recommended for its primary future homestead site, while the southern area is recommended as the secondary future homestead site. The group, however, noted that they were unable to visit the southern side of the island due to its "difficult terrain" and "inability to land." The group identified 139 hectares for possible agricultural homestead lots.

Agrihan's southern area is recommended as a primary future homestead site, while the group identified two areas on the east side of the island as the secondary homestead site. The island currently has two residents. The group identified 212 hectares for possible agricultural homestead lots.

Similar to Anatahan, all four islands currently do not include village homestead lots, as it is not included in the current draft of the land use plan.

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Revitalized military base dedicated to fallen heroes

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The revitalized U.S. Army Reserve Center in Puerto Rico was dedicated to the late Corporal Derence W. Jack and the late Staff Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto in a ribbon-cutting ceremony yesterday.

According to Brig. Gen. Douglas Anderson, 9th MSC, U.S. Army Reserve general commander, memorializing heroes who lost their lives in the line of duty enables those who come after to remember them.

"The main reason is that we memorialize buildings… to honor our soldiers and those who came before us—those brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice. … By memorializing our buildings, our ranges, or other facilities, it lets our current soldiers remember them and remember the sacrifices that they made and understand that they are all part of something bigger," he said.

Lieto and Jack were both from the unit that conducts training on Saipan, Echo Company 100, before they were drafted to join the war in Iraq.

"Staff Sergeant Lieto and Corporal Jack…were with Echo Company 100th in Iraq, which is the infantry detachment that is here. They were soldiers in the unit that conducts training here," said Anderson.

Jack's wife, Melissa Tomokane Jack, was present and said that she and her daughter were proud to witness the newly improved military base that memorializes her late husband.

"I love it because it memorializes what he stands for and it makes my daughter and I very proud to know that he will forever be remembered even more," she said.

According to Jack, the facility reminds her that her husband died while serving the country he loved and he was able to fulfill his lifelong dream in the end.

"My feelings toward the Army never changed. He wanted to serve his country; this is something that he wanted to. It was his lifelong dream since he was a boy. …It was his dream and he fulfilled it. He'll never be forgotten, he is one of the CNMI's heroes," she said.

Although the U.S. Army provided the funding, the U.S Navy oversaw the construction of the improved facility. Over $6.4 million was put into the revitalization and about $2 million was put into the expansion of the Saipan Troop Store, for a grand total of over $8 million.

The renovations took about 20 months to complete, according to Joint Region Marianas commanding officer Adam Perrins.

The renovations were made to accommodate a larger number of troops and to also ensure that the building is resilient against future typhoons.

According to Sgt. Melanie Joy Licerio, she found the improvements amazing. "It's really better right now. Before, it was just two buildings…all of this is really a big improvement," she said.

Some of the improvements include additional buildings, air-conditioning, an expanded gym, a motor room, and more.

The base provides service to over 70 military reserve servicemen.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BECQ closed today

The Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality will be closed today, May 11, 2018, for a professional development workshop. As such, payments can be made at the CNMI Treasury Office or the CNMI Supreme Court. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, May 14, 2018. ***(PR)***

NEA awards $296,700 for Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the National Endowment of the Arts has awarded the Guam Council on Arts and Humanities $296,700 in federal grants assistance. This grant will support CAHA's efforts to promote arts programs, services, and activities on Guam, including performances and exhibitions, healing arts and arts education programs, festivals, and artist residencies.

"I have long championed

See COMMUNITY on Page 4

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IN TRIAL OF EX-LABOR CHIEF

Judge admonishes prosecutors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho admonished yesterday the two prosecutors in the ongoing bench trial of former Labor secretary Edith Eleanor Deleon Guerrero for what he described as their "lack of preparedness."

Camacho made the admonition after some issues came up during assistant public defender Heather Zona's cross-examination of the government's fourth witness because the witness could've possibly incriminated herself.

In his minute order issued after the hearing yesterday afternoon, Camacho noted that at the pre-trial conference hearing, the parties stated that there were no issues as to witnesses.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. is lead counsel for the government in the case. AAG Jonathan Wilberscheid has been assisting Glass in the trial.

Camacho said certain documents have been admitted as evidence that indicate a number of authorized drivers on a rental agreement.

Camacho said the prosecution in its case called their fourth witness, Katrina Agulto Diaz, a former employee of the Workforce Investment Agency.

During cross-examination of Diaz by Zona, who is counsel for Deleon Guerrero, issues about the witness incriminating herself came up.

Camacho then excused Diaz and inquired how many witness or witnesses might have the same issue. The prosecution informed the court of the other witnesses.

After hearing the counsels' arguments, the judge called back Diaz to the stand and advised her of her constitutional rights and informed her that the court will appoint counsel to discuss the issues with her.

Camacho then called another government witness, Donyale Deleon Guerrero, a WIA employee, and advised her of her constitutional rights and informed her that the court will appoint counsel to discuss the issues with her.

Camacho ordered Diaz and Donyale Deleon Guerrero to return to the court today, Friday, at 10:30am. The trial will resume today in the District Court courtroom at 10am.

The government's third witness, Finance director Bernie Palacios, completed her testimony yesterday.

Deleon Guerrero is on trial for three infractions—no tinting on a government vehicle, requiring that government vehicles be marked on their front doors, and requiring government vehicles to bear government license plates.

According to the charges, on Dec. 8, 2013 to Oct. 11, 2016, Deleon Guerrero, as Labor secretary, used a government vehicle that had tinting on its windows, that was not clearly marked as a government vehicle, and did not bear government license plates.

The government alleged that Deleon Guerrero leased a vehicle for more than 12 months through her workplace.

But Zona said the government has provided a stack of short-term car rental agreements, not leases.

"The government cannot convert a short-term rental agreement into a lease simply by calling it a lease," Zona said.

According to court documents, Police Officer Jesus Santos issued the traffic citation against Deleon Guerrero on Oct. 16, 2016, in the parking lot of the Happiness Chinese Restaurant in western Garapan.

The car was registered at that time to Marfega Trading Co. Inc., which owns Islander Rent-A-Car.

COMMUNITY

From Page 4

programs that promote the arts and cultural activities on Guam. It is important that we provide resources to help our artists showcase their work and talents with our community. As Guam's representative in Congress, I join my colleagues each year in supporting federal funding for the NEA, which is provided to local organizations in the states and territories throughout the country. I look forward to CAHA utilizing these funds to further promote the arts on Guam." ***(PR)***

CAO community report meetings set

The Carolinian Affairs Office is holding a community report meeting on May 16 at the Kagman Youth Center. The CAO is asking members of the Refaluwasch community to attend the meeting. Contact the CAO at (670)234-6385 with any questions or concerns about the meetings. ***(PR)***

Meeting for farmers/ producers

There will be a farmers/producers meeting on May 15, at 9am at the Kagman Agriculture Station to discuss the upcoming 31st Agriculture Fair. All farmers and producers who wish to participate in the fair must register their names and plants/animals to display. Also, farmers will be asked to select amongst themselves who will participate in the Agriculture Fair Committee. They will be selecting officers for president, vice president, and secretary/ treasurer. ***(PR)***

Reunion meeting for MHS Class of '88

All graduates of MHS Class of '88 will be having their final meeting on May 14, 2018, to discuss their 30th year class reunion for June 29, 2018. Meeting location will be at Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Cepeda's residence in As Lito at 6:30pm. If you have any questions, you may contact Eleanor Cepeda through MHS Class of 88 WhatsApp group. ***(PR)***

Nominees sought for MINA's Green Awards

The Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance is seeking nominations for this year's Green Award for presentation at the annual Green Gala event slated for Sept. 14, 2018. The deadline for submission of nominees is June 1, 2018. Awards are given in the following categories, and nominations will be accepted from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota: Environmental Champion Award, Environmental Heroes Award, Green Business of the Year. Submit nominations to rguerrero.mina@gmail.com. For additional information, call 233-7333. ***(PR)***

DEAL

From Page 1

constituents. So we continue to work on things. This is our priority. We have a time frame that actually needs to be one of our top priorities. We're looking at every angle to continue the services," he added.

United is also ending its years of partnership with Cape Air at the end of the month.

"Obviously, United already said that their partnership with Cape Air ends on May 31. So that's where their relationship is now. We're trying to do something on how can we extend the services or to have more number of services, if this is how you put it," Torres said.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña has also written United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz and president Scott Kirby, urging them to reconsider their decision to reduce the Saipan-Guam daily flights from more than four to one because of medical referral patients.

Other airlines

Torres disclosed earlier that he is in talks with Japanese carrier Skymark Airlines about having flights to Saipan. "I'm happy to say that we partnered with Skymark and I'm looking forward for that fruitful relationship."

Torres added that they are also scheduled to look into new airline companies where local officials are invited to visit their organization. He, however, did not disclose the name of the airline since the deal is not yet finalized.

"We're invited to look at what services they could offer to the CNMI. Tourism is our No. 1 resource and our economy here is dependent on them. It is our part to find ways to have continued airline services," said Torres.

"We must be proactive, and this administration is also prioritizing that. We hope we could have more airlines and more tourists visiting our islands."

He added that Delta Air Lines' decision to pull out of Saipan is beyond the CNMI's control. "Issues like this, when Delta decided to change their portfolio, we absolutely have no control in their decision. It is hard news for us to bear, but we just don't stop there. We go out and seek other means to bring in new airlines."

REBATES

From Page 1

Rota would release their respective refunds.

Larson noted over $4.95 million in child tax credits, as well as $490,199.35 in tax loans through Bank of Saipan and Express Financial would be released.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres commended Finance and the "hardworking employees of Revenue and Taxation" for their efficiency in processing tax filings this early.

"The department has made real progress over the last few years in scheduled releases and assisting our community," he said.

Torres noted that Finance released $9.9 million in rebates in June 2016 and $11.7 million in mid-May 2017.

"I thank our Division of Electronic Data Processing and the CNMI Treasury for their hard work. I also appreciated the community's cooperation and patience as we move forward," said Torres.

Larson noted that if there are any pending issues from prior tax filings, a delay in the release of tax checks might be expected. Larson reminds the public to "clear those prior year items at their earliest convenience."

"If you have not received your tax refund/rebate/child tax checks by June 1, 2018, filers can contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation to clear any issues that may be pending," Larson said in a statement from Finance, adding that this included taxpayers who have not received their refund, rebate, and child taxes for calendar year 2016.

The same statement noted that taxpayers are asked to allow for a two-week allowance to allow the U.S. Postal Service to sort and distribute mail.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), who is also the chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, said in a statement that the "significantly early" release of refunds and rebates to taxpayers is an indication of economic growth and fiscal solvency of the CNMI.

"… This is yet the latest of a series of testaments to the progress we have collectively achieved as a Commonwealth. It is my hope that we will continue this positive trend so that all taxpayers receive their refunds and rebates in the same timely manner next year and in the years ahead," he said.

CSC

From Page 1

to appoint someone to replace him as chairman.

Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that Torres never called him after that article, but his office received the governor's letter about his re-appointment last week.

He said his re-appointment is not critical; what is important is that CSC should have the required number of commission members so that they have a quorum.

Deleon Guerrero said CSC is supposed to be completely neutral.

"We are supposed to act fairly and in an equitable manner to our employees. CSC is good for the government as well as the civil service employees," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said his first concern is that there is no appointment yet to replace former commissioner Eric Plinske, whose position has been vacant for over two years now.

He said CSC needs to have quorum at every meeting to address pressing, problematic issues affecting the administration of the CNMI government departments, especially Civil Service personnel issues.

His second concern is the cut in the budget of CSC.

"We cannot hire the staff that we need," he said.

He urged Torres to restore the commission's budget, which according to him the administration cut almost in half. He said this cut came at a time when the new "revitalized" CSC is working hard to revive the operation of CSC.

Deleon Guerrero said Torres stated in meeting with him that he would restore the budget cut through supplemental appropriation but that has not happened

Deleon Guerrero, however, stated that he is committed to helping the Office of Personnel Management and the CSC when needed.

"I will be an advocate of Civil Service employees," he said.

AIRLINE

From Page 1

larly an Alaska-Saipan route.

"...I…met with some businessmen and women regarding airlines, so hopefully within a month or so we would have some airline interest coming from Alaska. We would also be providing some data this week, some they requested, regarding airline passengers," Torres said.

He clarified that he was in talks with "airlines that are owned by Alaskan natives or Alaskan businessmen" and not necessarily Alaska Airlines. Torres did not disclose who he was in talks with and what particular airline.

"I told them [of] our situation and they expressed interest, so we would be providing some documents and information. Hopefully, within the month, they would be coming down to Saipan and see [the islands]," said Torres, adding that he wants airlines that would provide services to Saipan, Rota, and Guam.

United Airlines has announced its intent to sever ties with Cape Air in Micronesia. Cape Air is the only source of transportation services from Rota to Saipan or Rota to Guam.

United plans to start daily Guam-Saipan flights using a larger jet. Delta Air Lines bid adieu to the CNMI last Sunday.

Delta is the only airline that offers the CNMI direct flights to Narita, Japan, as well as connecting services to the U.S. mainland.

With Delta discontinuing direct flights to Japan, Torres announced in a previous statement that Skymark Airlines, the third largest Japanese carrier headquartered at Haneda Airport in Tokyo, has already begun evaluating the launch of direct flights to Saipan for the upcoming winter.

"… A more formal announcement will be made as soon as their evaluation process and official decision is complete," Torres said.

Summer flights from Japan to Saipan set

With the recent announcement by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres of new flights from Japan anticipated in the upcoming winter schedule, the Marianas Visitors Authority has already confirmed 30 charter flights from the major source market for the summer season.

A total of 28 direct flights from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan will be operated by two separate airlines in August 2018, bringing a total of 5,567 seats. Another carrier will also operate a direct Nagoya-Saipan flight with 186 total seats in August. These flights are operated in partnership with key travel agencies in Japan.

"We are excited and grateful for these charter flights from the major cities of Tokyo and Nagoya," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We will continue to negotiate with travel agents and airlines for additional charters, as many as we can secure."

Japan is the third largest source market for the Marianas, with over 26,000 visitors from Japan so far this fiscal year. ***(MVA)***

LibDay parade registration fills up quick

Registration to join the 2018 Liberation Day float parade is filling up quick.

According to 2018 Liberation Day parade chair Brad Ruszala, anyone interested in winning in this year's Liberation Day parade should start registering now.

The first place float winner can win up to $4,000, second place winner could win $3,000, and so forth.

Registration has been open since May 1 and will be officially closed on June 15; late registrants will not be eligible to win the monetary prizes and will only be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Ruszala is urging the community to register before the deadline so that parade participants can be properly briefed to ensure a smooth Liberation Day parade.

Parade participants can register at the Saipan Mayor's Office. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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14 take oath as new US citizens

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, Immigration Services officer Teresa Vega-Murrieta, and HES Micronesia manager Yogesh Singh pose for a group photo with 14 new U.S. citizens after the naturalization ceremony yesterday.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Laura Jalandoni Tan, 42, was a mixture of nervous and happy when she took her oath yesterday as a U.S. citizen before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

Tan, who is originally from Negros, Philippines, arrived on Saipan in February 1998. She obtained her citizenship through her marriage to GPPC Inc. owner Hang Chieng Tan, who is a U.S. citizen. They have one child. She is thinking of putting her new citizenship to use this November election.

» Former CW worker serves as guest speaker

In Taek Hwang, 65, who hails from South Korea, first came to the island in 1989, and put up a tour agency. He is now the owner of Saipan Sunset Cruise Inc. and other businesses, obtaining his citizenship by having a business in Guam.

Tan and Hwang were among the 14 from the Philippines, South Korea, China, and Russia who took their oaths as new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony.

Immigration Services officer Teresa Vega-Murrieta presented the 14 new citizens.

Yogesh "Yogi" Singh, a former CW worker who is now the manager of Hawaii Engineering Services Micronesia, served as the guest speaker at the ceremony.

Singh, a native of Fiji, came to Saipan in 2003 and married a U.S. citizen in 2010.

Singh recalled that when he was still a CW worker, he was always worried about his work and immigration status. He said he used to hold a passport that contained 60 pages, yet he could not go anywhere.

Singh said that obtaining one's citizenship means an opportunity to do anything to make one's own life better and other lives better.

"You can do things not just for yourself and your family but as a community member to improve things and improve your life, family and community," he said. "As a U.S. citizen you have the tools to be the best. And utilize it. Make it the best you can and help out."

Aside from Tan and Hwang, the other new citizens are Rosalie Antenero Aldan, Joel Panuelos Bernados, Carolina Ramos Del Rosario, Bernardo Careon Dizon, Marialen Jagorin Fitial, Editha Cecilia Caluza Hipol, Yan Min Li, Lorna Binondo Liban, Marshall Jose Lumaban Liban, Domingo Dollente Pascua, Emarigold Ivy Lasam Pinkerton, and Lioudmila Menkhakovna Ten.

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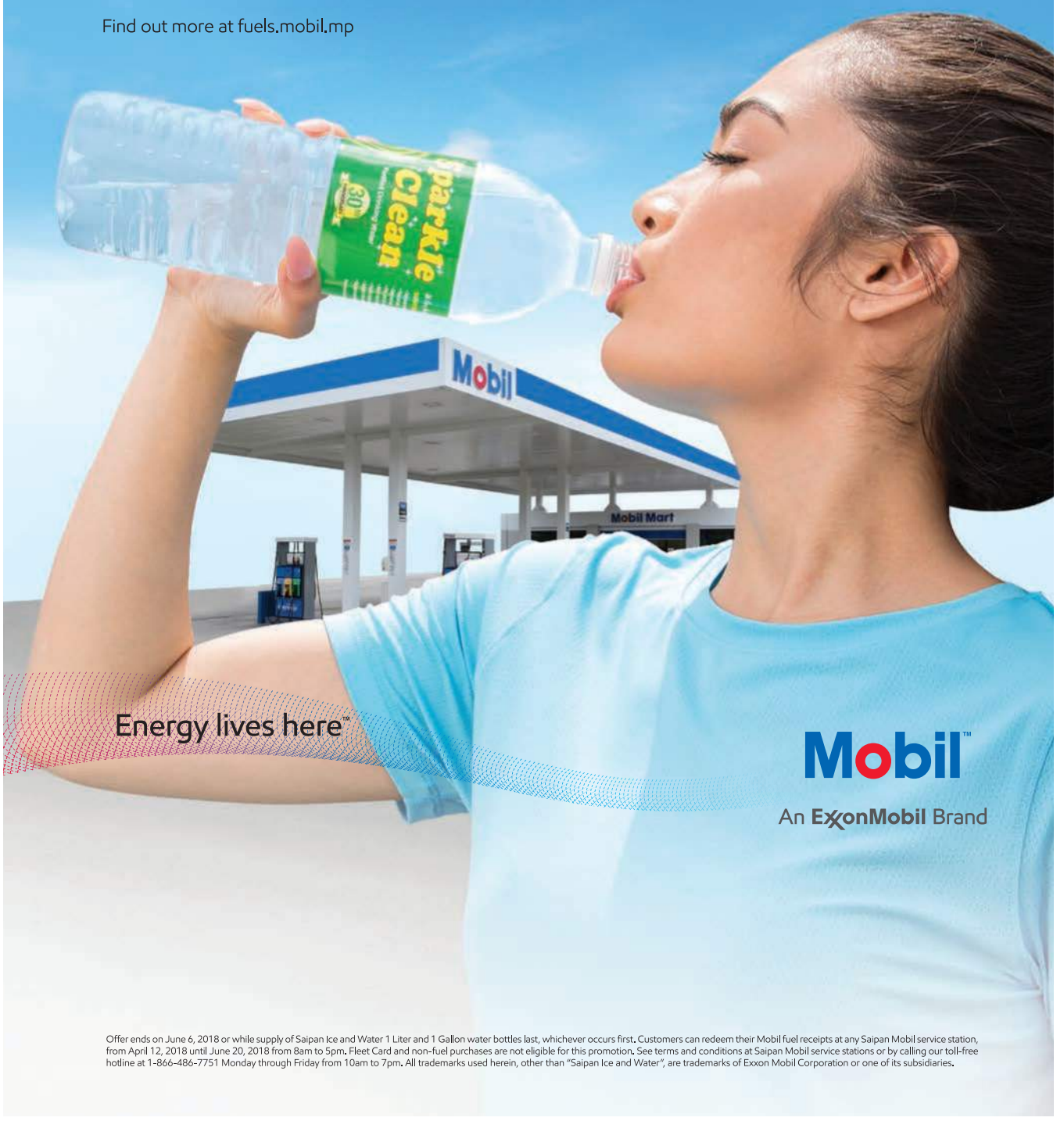

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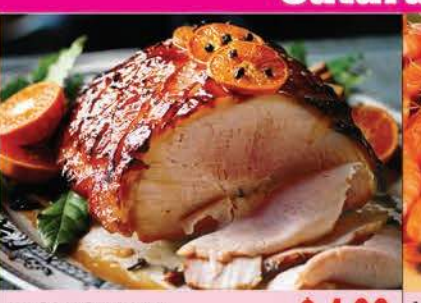
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Outages inevitable as power poles are replaced

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is asking for the community's understanding as it replaces wooden power poles damaged by Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 with concrete ones, resulting in intermittent power outages.

CUC executive director Gary Camacho and project engineer Adrian Reyes said they have three months left to meet the August deadline set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to replace the power poles.

The project is also in collaboration with the local capital improvement projects office.

CUC personnel and its contractor are replacing a total of 787 power poles.

"There's a deadline in August that we need to meet and it is imperative that the community understands that there's going to be a number of lateral outages, which is streets, and some feeder outages," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday.

"This has been going on for months and we're asking for the patience and understanding of the public. The outages will be throughout the island and CUC will diligently, along with our contractor, to finish the project on time."

All concrete power poles are pending installation on Saipan, with the scope of work in reference to a project worksheet done by CUC Power Division engineers, based on their assessment a day after Soudelor.

"The day after, the engineers from CUC's Power Division did an assessment of the damage that resulted from the typhoon. The damage that we submitted to FEMA for the 406 Hazard Mitigation project was concentrated only on Saipan," said Reyes.

The project cost for labor, materials, and other equipment are 100 percent covered under FEMA's Section 406 assistance program.

Reyes said the public should understand that everyone's safety is their top priority. "Now we have a more durable and hardened concrete power poles, to withstand strong storms and more durable from future storms."

"The power outages are executed to allow our CUC linemen and contractor to safely replace these power poles. … It is not for the purposes of inconveniencing the customers but, rather, we had to work in a safe [manner]."

He added: "We want to have no accidents."

The project is a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant 406, which is a public assistance program that provides funds for mitigation measures to repair disaster-damaged facilities.

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House action on bill to extend maximum lease terms hinges on House floor leader

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Further action on a Senate bill extending the maximum public land leases from 40 years to 55 years now rests with the House floor leader, according to House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan).

Demapan said it is now the prerogative of House floor leader Rep. Glenn Maratita (R-Rota) whether he would agree to extract the bill from the House Natural Resources Committee and place it on the bill calendar after committee members reached an impasse on whether or not to hold a public hearing on the bill.

Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan) chairs the committee.

The committee also agreed that it was futile to move for the adoption of the bill just to end up with another deadlock.

In an interview, Demapan noted that placing Senate President Arnold Palacios' (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-35, SD3 on the calendar would be discussed this Friday, either before the House session or at least during the leadership meeting.

"We would definitely discuss that issue during the leadership meeting and, from there, we would know what direction we would take," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI Senate unanimously passed SB 20-35 in a session in August 2017. When asked whether or not a public hearing on the bill should have been held, he said it is always good to have as much information as possible.

"It is always good to have public hearings, but it is the prerogative of the committee chair's," said Demapan.

"…We would always have to take the recommendation of the committee, because that is their due diligence. Their due diligence is to make sure that they obtain as much information [as they can] so that each member is equipped with [necessary information to make] sound judgment," he added.

Bill gives NMHC its own procurement powers

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A bill that would give the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. the power to skip the procurement processes of the Department of Finance when applying for federal grants passed House of Representatives last week.

By allowing it to skip Finance's procurement process, it is hope that NMHC, an autonomous agency under the CNMI government that is funded solely by federal grants, will have a faster grant applications process, skipping Finance's vast processes that government agencies go through.

"Due to the excessive burden that the Department of Finance is faced with in dealing with other government agencies, timeliness is a serious concern that NMHC is faced with," states the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations. "If NMHC's projects are not completed in a timely manner as set under [federal] guidelines, NMHC's grant funding may be jeopardized."

Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), who authored House Bill 20-153, chairs the committee.

H.B. 20-153, which passed the House on a vote of 18-0, authorizes NMHC, along with the Commonwealth Development Authority, to promulgate their own regulations on procurement, travel, and personnel matters, instead of having to go through Finance.

In a March 19, 2018, letter, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson expressed support for the bill, saying it "corrects an issue that was overlooked and allows for the autonomy that was intended" in creating NMHC.

"Under the current interpretation of the law, DOF has had to delegate authorities to NMHC to allow them to operate in an autonomous form. H.B. 20-153 addresses that concern by allowing NMHC to determine and promulgate its own regulations for personnel, procurement, and travel as should be the case in an autonomous agency," Larson wrote to Blanco.

The bill now heads to the Senate for action.

1 of 4 in meth 'lab' case pleads guilty

One of four men indicted in federal court in connection with an alleged meth lab on Saipan has pleaded guilty.

Rick Urumelog Omar Jr., also known as Boboy, pleaded guilty last Friday to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine, and manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine on premises where a child is present and resides.

The offenses carry a total maximum penalty of not more than 40 years imprisonment.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will sentence Omar on Sept. 21.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe did not object to Omar's ongoing release pending his sentencing.

Omar's co-defendants are Vincent David Cabrera Jr., Eugene Blas Repeki Jr., and Sidney Capelle Kani.

According to the indictment, Omar, Cabrera, Repeki, and Kani allegedly conspired to possess equipment, chemicals, and materials, which may be used to manufacture methamphetamine such as pseudoephedrine, lithium batteries, cold packs, iodized salt, lye, lighter fluid, water bottles, and coffee filters. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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NMTI hosts appreciation dinner

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute treated its donors and other local partners to a special dinner prepared by the graduates of its culinary arts program last Tuesday at its Lower Base grounds.

NMTI president Agnes McPhetres said the dinner is the result of the fruits of every donation they made to NMTI. "I would like to thank you for being here to see the fruits of your donation. Every penny donated to NMTI is used wisely."

"You will see that everything that we received from you are returned back to you. When we train these students, it would go back to the businesses. Our students get academia here but go out to businesses to do their practicum," she added.

NMTI also offers construction trades: plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and cabinet-making.

NMTI has also started with its apprenticeship program with other local businesses as their partners. "We're expanding our program so that every business in the CNMI would be able to work with us," McPhetres said.

She said treating everyone to their culinary arts students' French dish chicken chasseur is NMTI's way of saying thank you. "That's why we're here. Our way to do this is to make you taste the money that you've given to us through our culinary arts program."

Culinary arts program director Ty Pauling, who is also Hyatt Regency Saipan's F&B director, said the dish that was served is a typical French hunters meal since they can either use a wild rooster or rabbit.

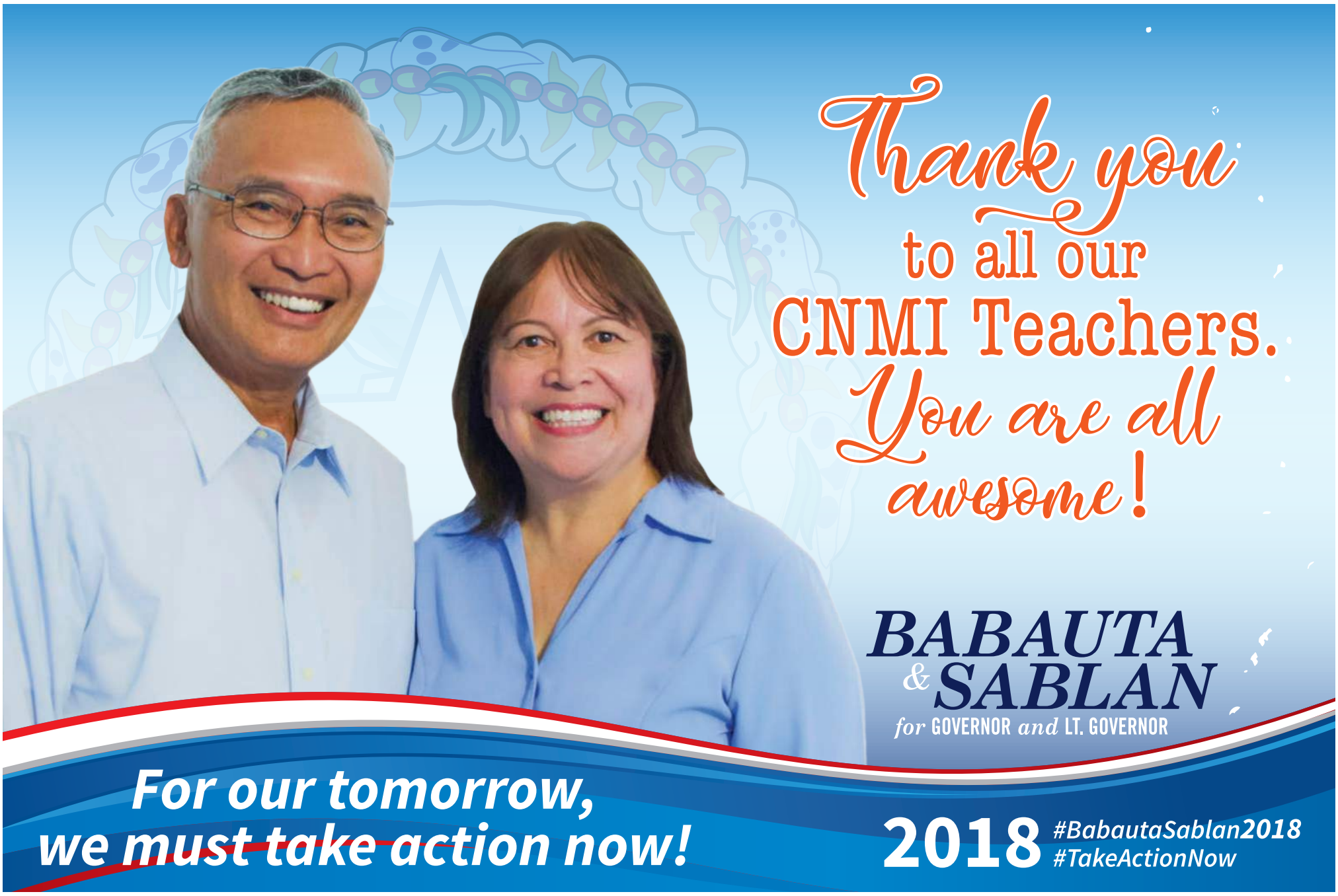
"This is one of my favorite dishes personally, because when I went to culinary school I was told to make this since there was a potential scholarship involved when I do it well. It's one of those dishes that can challenge you in a lot of ways," said Pauling. "There's a lot of skill involved in the dish."

Pauling meets with NMTI's culinary arts night class twice a week where they spend one hour on lecture and three hours on practical applications. "A lot of time was reserved on hands-on application since the industry is pretty much hands-on. This class began in late January of this year and they've come a long way since then."

"We've compressed a lot in a short amount of time. Attendance makes up 25 percent of the grade, because if I'm an employer and most of the time you're absent, then I'll need a new staff. This program meant to showcase the skills that our chefs have obtained while they've been with us," he added.

Water service interruption in Kagman

There will be a scheduled water service interruption tomorrow, May 12, 2018, from 8am to 5pm, in the entire Kagman. The purpose of the interruption is due to a damaged 8-inch transmission mainline. Water operations personnel are scheduled to make the necessary repairs on Saturday, May 12, 2018, due to a previous water outage caused by a damaged waterline in the Kagman II area resulting in low water level in the tanks. Tanks will need ample time to refill. For more information, contact CUC (664-4282). ***(PR)***



Ex-cop's 'ice' trafficking case dismissed

The case of trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" filed against former police officer Victor Val Hocog has been dismissed with prejudice, which means the Office of the Attorney General can no longer re-file the case.

The 43-year-old Hocog had been charged with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja ordered the dismissal of Hocog's case last month following the OAG's motion to drop the charges, according to court documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* last week.

In the government's motion to dismiss, assistant attorney general Chester Hinds said the Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss this case with prejudice. He did not elaborate.

At a status conference in May 2017, Hinds disclosed that OAG and Hocog and his counsel, Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, were negotiating on how to resolve the case.

OAG filed the case on March 8, 2017.

OAG investigator George Fleming David alleged that their "cooperating source" managed to buy $240 worth of "ice" from Hocog during a buy-walk operation in the parking lot of a store in As Lito on Sept. 15, 2016.

Hocog was arrested on Oct. 10, 2016, over the alleged Sept. 15 drug transaction. He was subsequently released after he offered to serve as a confidential informant to authorities.

The OAG later moved to revoke his release. Hocog was not re-arrested and instead was summoned to appear in court on March 13, 2017.

At the March 13 arraignment, Hocog pleaded not guilty.

On Sept. 25, 2014, Hocog was sentenced to 15 months in prison after he pleaded guilty to illegal possession of a controlled substance. He was given credit for 226 days of time served.

In 2011, Hocog pleaded guilty to assault and battery in a domestic violence case. Naraja sentenced him to one year in prison, all suspended except for nine days. Naraja gave him credit for the nine days of time served. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

US govt settles teacher's police brutality suit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government has settled a lawsuit filed by a visiting teacher who sued eight Customs & Border Protection Service officers in federal court for allegedly denying her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant, handcuffing her, having her face slammed against the wall, and placing her in isolation for 22 hours.

Yu Min Zhao, represented by her lawyer, Samuel I. Mok, dropped the lawsuit.

Assistant U.S. attorney Mikel W. Schwab and Mok asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss Zhao's lawsuit, saying the parties' settlement agreement have been satisfied as of Wednesday.

Each party shall bear their own costs and fees, including attorneys' fees.

The parties agreed that their settlement agreement would not be filed in court.

At a March 30, 3018, conference held before U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, Mok disclosed the terms of their settlement deal.

The U.S. government's counsel also disclosed that the agreement has no effect on Zhao's immigration status and that she was not subject to a lifetime bar to enter the U.S.

Zhao was present at the settlement conference via video teleconference.

According to Mok in the complaint, the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2013, at 3:10am, soon after Zhao and her husband, Jian Li, arrived at the Francisco Ada/Saipan International Airport from Beijing via a China Eastern Airlines charter flight.

Li was questioned first and, after a series of routine questions, was admitted. When it was Zhao's turn, the same CBP officer asked her how many months she's pregnant and referred her to another CBP officer for further questioning and inspection.

The second CBP officer allegedly accused her of being several months pregnant and ordered her to open her bag for inspection.

Mok said Zhao was later denied entry, handcuffed, placed in detention, and was subjected to physical and verbal abuse.

In July 2016, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed two of Zhao's three claims against the U.S. government.

The U.S. government did not move for dismissal of Zhao's third claim for assault and battery.

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Miscellaneous: Other discounts and travel certificates are not applicable. Offer subject to change at any time. Advance purchase may be required. All published fare rules apply.

NMI obtains funding for emergency food, shelter

The Northern Mariana Islands Emergency Food and Shelter local board has been chosen to receive $77,220 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the CNMI.

The selection was made by a national board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide.

The local board will determine how the funds awarded to the CNMI are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The local board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the national board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary nonprofits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for emergency food and shelter program funds must contact John Hirsh, local board chair and executive director of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter at 234-3459 for an application.

The deadline for applications to be received is May 25, 2018. ***(PR)***

Donovan Castro
Head Baker
Great Harvest Bread Co.
Culinary Arts Graduate

Ric Cruz
HR Talent Devel. Officer
Kanoa Resort
H & R Program Graduate

Sid Romolor
Cook
The Shack Saipan
Culinary Arts Graduate

Toki Mojica
Legislative Staffer
Rep. Frank Delacruz
H & R Program Graduate

Register now. Call Mae 235-6684

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the institute. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships and loan programs, and other institute-administered programs.

NMTI Northern Marianas Trades Institute Building Skills for a Lifetime

NATIONAL prevention week 2018

ACTION TODAY. HEALTHIER TOMORROW.

MAY 13-19, 2018

CNMI NPW national prevention week

MAY 14 TINIAN — NPW ROADSIDE WAVING

MAY 15 TINIAN — NPW ISA FOAM RUN & NPW ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY 16 SAIPAN — NPW ROADSIDE WAVING

MAY 17 SAIPAN — NPW ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY 18 ROTA — NPW ROADSIDE WAVING

MAY 19 ROTA — NPW ISA HEALTH WALK & NPW ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Join the CHCC's Community Guidance Center in educating CNMI on healthy living and the power of PREVENTION to help prevent substance abuse and mental health disorders

SAIPAN, ROTA & TINIAN

ART CONTEST
(Grade School & Middle School Students)
• Due on May 4, 2018 at 4:00 PM
*Use 8.5" x 11" canvas
*Any Art Medium (No print, digital artwork, & photography)
* Prizes includes Art supplies, bragging rights and more!

CNMI NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK
FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SAIPAN: Charnessa "Chenny" Lizama
npwcnmi@gmail.com
(670) 323-6560

TINIAN: Keith Nabors
tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com
(670) 433-6572

ROTA: Benedicta San Nicolas
benedicta.sannicolas@gmail.com
(670) 532-9461

CGC-Prevention Services Unit cgc_prevention cgc_prevention

This advertisement is made possible by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with CHCC: Community Guidance Center - Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit.

THUNDER CHICKEN opens Saipan location

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thunder Chicken, a franchise originating in South Korea, has opened a branch on Middle Road, in Chalan Laulau.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The CNMI has been graced with an Asian restaurant franchise that seeks to please the palates of chicken lovers.

Thunder Chicken, a franchise originating in South Korea, has opened a branch on Middle Road, in Chalan Laulau, and aims to take the Commonwealth by storm with its chicken-infused dishes and prides itself in innovative and non-traditional styles of serving chicken.

Thunder Chicken first got its feet wet in Guam and it has now been brought to Saipan. The chicken joint officially opened its doors last Saturday, May 5.

According to Thunder Chicken manager Jung Gon Kim, Thunder Chicken is for those who want to have a taste of chicken in new, unique ways.

"Thunder Chicken is very popular in Korea. It's a new style of chicken… they make many different kinds with different tastes," he said.

What makes Thunder Chicken different from all the other chicken joints in the CNMI is their secret ingredients that are used to marinate their chicken an entire day.

"We have a special spice for our marinade. We also marinate 24 hours before—at least…we also have a machine to marinate and there is a special sauce from Korea that is our secret…we just have our own unique way of cooking our chicken," he said.

Thunder Chicken is currently exclusive to chicken dishes, but hopes to expand their menu in the future to accommodate local tastes.

"We are focusing on the chicken now and then later on, we plan to add to our menu…In Korea, some franchises have pizza, too, so maybe later on," he said.

The public can try up to nine different flavors of chicken at Thunder Chicken: the classic crispy fried chicken, fried chicken slathered in a sweet and spicy sauce, *padak* chicken, sweet soy sauce chicken, spicy chili fried chicken, fried chicken in a sweet onion sauce, fried chicken in a sweet garlic sauce, *sunsal* chicken slathered in sweet and spicy sauce, or just plain crispy *sunsal* chicken.

The standard price for one order is $20. That's eight pieces of chicken. Thunder Chicken also has a special carry-out deal: two orders of any flavor of their delicious chicken is just $35.

Thunder Chicken is open everyday from 3pm to 11pm and caters to all age groups.

Thunder Chicken is currently in the process of expanding its facilities and adding a karaoke/party room for larger groups.

For additional information, reservations, or orders, contact Thunder Chicken restaurant directly at 235-9241.

The inside of Thunder Chicken on Middle Road, in Chalan Laulau.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Fresh Chicken & Drink
THUNDER
THUNDER CHICKEN
Come and enjoy the newest fried chicken in town—Thunder Chicken. The restaurant is a leading franchise in Korea that offers a distinct crispy fried chicken coated with 10 kinds of spices. The restaurant along Middle Road has spacious parking and glamorous interior that seats 150 patrons.
Whole Chicken $20/ order
Take Out Order 2 for $35
Open: Monday - Sunday 3pm - 11pm
For Orders/Reservation Call 235-9241
THUNDER CHICKEN
DOCOMO
PAYLESS SHOES
MIDDLE ROAD, CHALAN LAULAU
SAN JOSE CHALAN KIYA

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Did Trump just put the world in danger?

President Donald Trump on Tuesday finally did what wiser heads in his administration have been trying to keep him from doing almost from the time he was sworn in: He announced that he would withdraw the United States from the Iran nuclear agreement. In doing so, he rejected the pleas of America's closest allies and more than 100 current and former senior diplomats. He even turned a blind eye to his own Defense secretary's conclusion that the agreement has allowed robust monitoring of Iran's activities.

But as alarming as the action itself was the deceitful and demagogic speech in which he attempted to justify it. It was virtually indistinguishable from the sort of rant Trump delivered on the campaign trail—utterly uninformed by the sort of appreciation for complexity that experience confers on most occupants of the Oval Office. And much as we would like to think the president was motivated by a belief, however wrongheaded, that tearing up this agreement would lead to a better one, it's hard to escape the suspicion that he was more influenced by a compulsion to besmirch the legacy of his predecessor.

Trump spoke four days before he must decide whether to again waive the economic sanctions against Iran that the U.S. lifted to comply with the agreement, which Iran negotiated in 2015 with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, Germany and the European Union. In his speech, Trump said not only that he won't waive the sanctions but that the U.S. will "withdraw" from the agreement, which he called a "disastrous deal" that has caused "great embarrassment to me as a citizen."

But Trump's attack on the agreement—reminiscent of his irresponsible decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris agreement on climate change—was characteristically misleading and short on detail. For example, he described the limits on Iran's nuclear activities as "very weak," a laughable characterization in light of the elaborate requirements of the agreement. Here's one illustration: Iran had to give up most of its ability to enrich uranium and agreed to place the vast majority of its centrifuges in storage under the oversight of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Trump is rightly concerned that several provisions of the agreement—known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—expire or sunset after 10 or 15 years, a condition he called "totally unacceptable." Ideally the agreement would have made those provisions permanent. He also was right to complain in his speech about Iran's development of ballistic missiles and its support for militant groups in the region. But those were the compromises required to strike the deal in the first place. There is nothing about abrogating or repudiating the agreement that puts the U.S. in a stronger position to command concessions.

In a statement issued after Trump spoke, the leaders of Germany, France and Britain acknowledged the need to address what happens to Iran's nuclear program after some of the provisions of the current agreement expire, as well

See TRUMP on Next Page

One at a time

By CAL THOMAS
Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

Following the 2016 election, President Obama rightly warned the Trump transition team "we only have one president at a time." It was a reminder that there can be just one person articulating American foreign policy so world leaders will have no doubt as to the United States' intentions.

Obama's former secretary of state, John Kerry, ignored that warning and has been behaving as if he's still in office.

Kerry, writes the Boston Globe, "engaged in some unusual shadow diplomacy" with Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif, at the United Nations in New York, reportedly to try and salvage the Iran nuclear deal they "spent years negotiating." On Tuesday, President Trump followed through on his promise to end America's participation in the deal. In response, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) tweeted that it "does not further U.S. national security," neither was it a "binding agreement under U.S. law because it was never submitted for Senate approval." Rubio called it a "political agreement by the previous administration."

Last week, in an apparent attempt to influence the president's decision on re-certifying Iran's compliance, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu revealed a treasure trove of documents obtained by Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency, which he said proves Iran has been cheating on the agreement. Apparently, this had no influence on Kerry.

This is why we have the Logan Act, which forbids private citizens "from engaging in unauthorized correspondence with foreign governments" that have "any disputes or controversies with the United States." That includes direct or indirect correspondence, unauthorized meetings or discussions, any contact at all. Violation can result in a fine, up to three years in prison, or both.

Is John Kerry an authorized person? No. Is Iran a foreign government? Yes. Does Iran have a "dispute" with the United States? It does. Has John Kerry committed a criminal offense?

The chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA), has called for Kerry to be arrested for violating the Logan Act. That is as likely to happen as Hillary Clinton being "locked up" for what she did with her "irresponsible" handling of classified emails.

Kerry isn't the first person to attempt to undermine the policies of an administration. In the early '80s, Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) sent a letter to the head of the KGB in what was regarded as an effort to counter President Reagan's arms build-up and put the Soviet Union "on the ash heap of history."

In a 1983 memo addressing the letter, sent by KGB head Viktor Chebrikov to then-Soviet General Secretary Yuri Andropov, Chebrikov explained that Kennedy was eager to "counter the militaristic policies" of Reagan.

Writes Forbes.com, Kennedy's message was simple: "...Kennedy would lend Andropov a hand in dealing with President Reagan. In return, the Soviet leader would lend the Democratic Party a hand in challenging Reagan in the 1984 presidential election. 'The only real potential threats to Reagan are problems of war and peace and Soviet-American relations,' the memorandum stated. 'These issues, according to the senator, will without a doubt become the most important of the election campaign.'

"Kennedy then offered to make it possible for Andropov to sit down for a few interviews on American television. 'A direct appeal ... to the American people will ... attract a great deal of attention and interest in the country. ... If the proposal is recognized as worthy, then Kennedy and his friends will bring about suitable steps to have representatives of the largest television companies in the USA contact Y.V. Andropov for an invitation to Moscow for the interviews."

Fortunately, Reagan's policy of "peace through strength" prevailed. Kennedy clearly was in violation of the Logan Act, yet paid no price for his meddling.

Congress should clarify the Logan Act. If people like Kerry and Kennedy can get away with their actions, is the law still relevant? Should it be? Yes it is, and yes it should. Congress needs to answer these questions soon to prevent a recurrence of this dangerous practice.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Germs

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Here's some health news: My pal Sparky has resumed his two-pack-a-day cigarette regimen. This means everything is back to normal on the flu front. If your doctor hasn't gotten the word yet, don't worry, you can just mention that Sparky said everything's OK.

You may recall that, as a precautionary measure, Sparky temporarily cut back to being a one-pack man a few months ago. That's back when the flu was dropping people like bowling pins. Paradoxically, the stronger they were, the harder they fell. That was a very strange state of affairs. Even Sparky got concerned, and Sparky usually don't worry 'bout nothin'.

Anyway, now that all that stuff has blown over we can resume our normal habits.

Sparky has refueled his Zippo. Me, I'm back to slouching in my beach chair, throwing pebbles into the water, and contemplating things that I'm not nearly smart enough to understand. That's a mighty long list. Fortunately, I've got a lot of pebbles.

Since we've been talking about the flu I'll toss out this contemplation: germs.

If I had to pick one thing that defines the "modern" era, I'd say it's the germ theory of disease along with related developments such as antibiotics. This stuff is remarkably recent in origin. Well, I guess if you want to get picky about things, you could cite some old developments such as the ancient Egyptian practice of putting honey (which has antibiotic properties) on wounds.

But I'll just take the conventional outlook here. In my schooldays we learned about two heroes of the modern era. These were Louis Pasteur (1822-1895), the French chemist associated with giving germ theory its broad credibility, and Alexander Fleming (1881-1955), the Scottish doctor who discovered penicillin.

It wasn't until the post-WWII era that the age of antibiotics really got rolling. My grandmother, a nurse, had clear recollections of people getting wiped out by tuberculosis and she said it wasn't until the 1950s that they firmly had the lid on it in the U.S.

Meanwhile, on the viral front, in 1952 an American doctor, Jonas Salk (1914-1995), unveiled his polio vaccine. After that is still took nearly a decade for polio vaccination efforts to really propagate through the U.S. There's a lot more to the polio story than that, and it's an interesting part of history.

This history is recent indeed. My parents remember polio.

With that in mind, I reckon that I am of the first generation to be born into a time and place where science had largely conquered the major infectious threats. That strikes me as a mighty fortunate situation.

Of course, nature never rests. Germs have been around a lot longer than we have.

So whether the recent successes are a sustainable trajectory, or merely constitute an aberration destined to snap back to the mean, well, it's not for me to say.

Not all microorganisms are dangerous to us, of course. Here's some weird science: It's been estimated that the human body contains more microbe cells (bacteria, etc.) than human cells. So, in a sense, we're more them than we are us.

If that weird science doesn't freak you out, here's an even weirder notion that might do the trick. In his book *Straw Dogs*, the philosopher John Gray presents the notion that humans are "technological devices, invented by ancient bacterial communities as a means of genetic survival."

Now there's a twist in the plot, eh? If you want to entertain that notion, then humans have vanquished some germs, only to remain as walking meat colonies owned by some other germs. In that case, are we merely human battlefields, getting stomped all over while the microscopic combatants slug it out? I guess you could make that argument.

As for me, well, I've thought about this germ thing long enough. It just gets more and more complicated. Furthermore, I'm out of pebbles.

"It's our island, *`nai*"

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Since four decades ago, I've heard local expressions of our rights to self-government. It encouraged a sense of optimism, strengthening our democratic institutions.

This year it was disheartening to learn of oversight issues raised in the recent Murkowski Senate committee hearing.

It seems we took another slide into *mañana* as if rectifying oversight issues is tertiary. We seem forgetful. Or is it a case of a misunderstood concept? Haven't we been self-governing for 40 years now?

Favoritism: Remember when Best Sunshine was freed from agency regulatory review while all others must follow the law to the letter? Isn't this a show of policy instability and isn't it a violation of the Hatch Act? Wasn't this an issue with the Murkowski Senate Committee hearing?

Merit: I have the highest respect for teachers who work long and hard to secure their degrees. Moreover, they had to pass Praxis tests to qualify as teachers. Beginning salary is about $33,000-plus per year. Has this been rectified?

At the same time, the requirement to run for public office is basically limited to age and residency. How about imposing credentials, you know, academic and professional experience so we could feel comfortable that these guys meet reading proficiency and capable of articulating issues in educated fashion? A standard merit system is a must!

Demoralizing: Have we revisited declared principles (policies) on health, education, and other basic issues to work on refinements or did we "Leave It To Beaver?"

Sometime it's hard striking a sense of equilibrium (balance) amidst the fray of meaningless spouts. Or is this indigenous forte?

Land: Learned that DPL has sent IPI/Best Sunshine a letter of "award" for the Garapan land about two years ago. Has an agreement been signed formalizing the award or has it been delayed? If it is the latter, is there a reason for it?

The Marpi land is another interesting issue. What's the score on this deal? Has someone been pulling heavy strings to delay it? Purpose of the delay and is it a matter of a favorite applicant over firms that lack political connection? The rumor mill is loaded!

Then there's the rumor of instructions from without to delay land exchange until the person secures land of his/her choice. Really? No worries! We're guarding too!

Extension: The idea of extending public land leases from 40 to 55 years should be soundly defeated. In fact, the term should be shortened to 25 years!

Short-term leases grant both sides the opportunity to realistically assess use of the land. If the tenant or lessee uses it for business he gets the opportunity to review the prospects of making more money or incur losses when the venue loses its attraction.

Across the country, McDonald's signs 25-year leases with landowners. At the end of the term it reassesses if continuing would still translate into healthy profit margins. Or has the area lost business traffic because people have relocated to greener pasture elsewhere.

The short-term deal is a plus for the landowner given the opportunity to make a bit more from his property when renewed for another 25 years. The term is short and gives the owner a little more income. Forty years is too long a period for reassessment.

Opportunities: The number of locals relocating to Guam, Hawaii, and across the fruited plains continues to this day. What's the missing link behind the phenomenon?

Our people, especially those who could afford the one-time cost of relocation are looking for opportunities for their families. It focuses on jobs, good school and health systems for their children and upward mobility beyond college degrees. It's an issue that requires meaningful reassessment and leadership. But we seem to have missed the boat as it leaves the harbor.

It's all about finding the best opportunities. Does this ring a bell here? Anybody seated at the navigator's chair ought to be wary of this vital issue.

Observations: The elected elite took an oath to guard and fulfill their obligation guarding the interest of the people, including how their hard-earned taxes are spent. If you're an incumbent, how do you rate your performance on this score? If you're a newcomer, do you understand the mess that could be an entrapment?

Did you raise an issue in the expropriation of $400,000 engineered by Biktot Hokog that violated constitutional mandate in the expenditure of public funds? Isn't it that all funds require legislative appropriation mandated by the Constitution?

Junket: The NMI spends millions of dollars on useless and unnecessary junket trips abroad as though an accepted culture in the ill disposition of taxpayers' money. Do the globetrotters know there are advances in information technology that avails of Skype" conferencing? It cuts travel expenses to zero!

TRUMP

From Page 14

as their concern about Iran's ballistic missile program and its "destabilizing regional activities, especially in Syria, Iraq and Yemen." But the European leaders suggested that that new approaches could be identified without violating the agreement. Trump offered no convincing argument to the contrary.

What was perhaps most bizarre about Trump's speech was that it both flirted with advocating regime change in Iran—the president referred to the Islamic government there as a "dictatorship" that had seized power—and simultaneously offered to engage it in negotiations toward a new nuclear agreement. Why would he think Iran would be inclined to accept his overture?

In their statement, the European leaders noted—as they likely did in their private conversations with Trump—that the International Atomic Energy Agency has concluded that "Iran continues to abide by the restrictions set out by the JCPOA, in line with its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The world is a safer place as a result." Therefore, Britain, France and Germany will remain parties to the agreement and "will work with all the remaining parties to the deal to ensure this remains the case including through ensuring the continuing economic benefits to the Iranian people that are linked to the agreement."

The full consequences of Trump's decision cannot be known, but they almost certainly will include a further erosion of America's credibility with its allies and others, and tacit encouragement for Iran to revive its nuclear program. That will be bad for the country and for the world.

(c)2018 *Los Angeles Times*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

So much drama it's embarrassing

It is very embarrassing to see and hear all this fiasco between KCHC and CHCC.

Please, stop the bickering and slamming and get to work. Our people are waiting for treatment and how long this will last?

Pointing fingers and slamming each other are not the best interest for our people. Most of all, we do not want to hear anymore "blame game."

Get with it, settle your differences and move on to better serve the public.

Too much drama for a small clinic is very unhealthy and unfriendly!

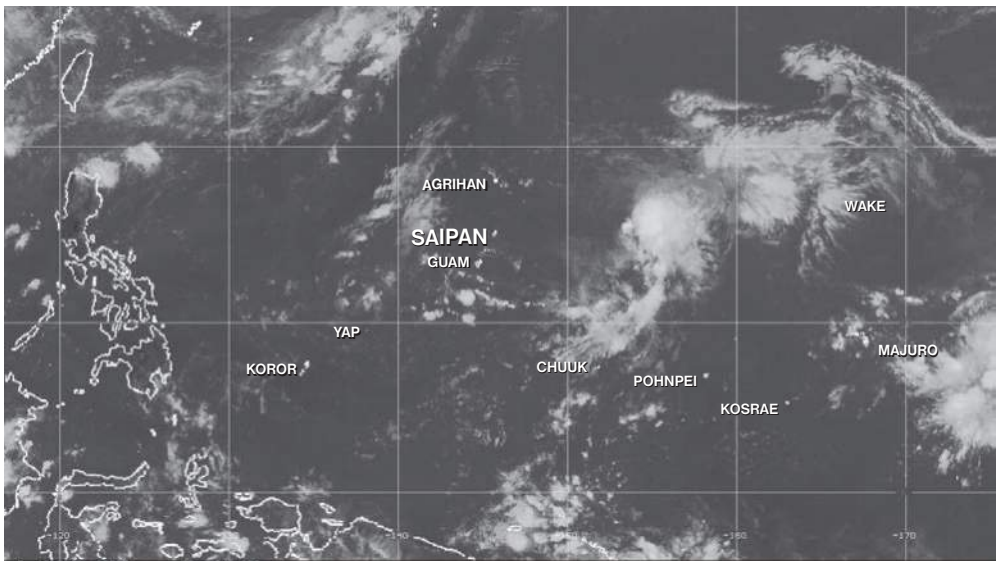
Jack C. Muna
Koblerville, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:06 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Other than a slight adjustment for cloud cover today, the forecast and grids remain pretty much unchanged. Cloudiness looks to remain south of Tinian this morning while mostly cloudy skies are seen across Guam and just south of Rota. The only feature of consequence that looks to affect the Marianas is a weak circulation to the east of the Marianas. This system shows little sign of any significant development as it continues to slowly lift toward the north. The northern CNMI could see increasing showers later this week as this system approaches the northern CNMI, though it looks more likely that the showers will remain isolated through the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	89° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	66° / 63°
Beijing	Cloudy	79° / 61°
Hong Kong	Showers	82° / 77°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 73°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71° / 59°
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 81°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 54°
Miami	Thunderstorm	82° / 76°
New York	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	70° / 54°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 63°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	91° / 64°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 60°
Seoul	Showers	66° / 57°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 63°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
11:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.70
4:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.50
10:49 PM	LOW TIDE	0.48

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:37 AM	2:45 PM	-
Saturday	3:18 AM	3:37 PM	-
Sunday	4:00 AM	4:30 PM	-
Monday	4:43 AM	5:28 PM	-
Tuesday	5:30 AM	6:25 PM	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

A Mother

is like a flower,
each one beautiful and unique.

For all your sacrifices and hardships, the countless ways you've shown your love to us, and the endless acceptance you give us despite the flaws and mistakes we've made, Thank you.

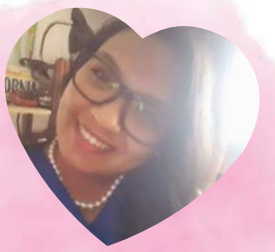
We you love Ma, and Happy Mother's Day

Love,
Kuya, Ate, and Bunso

Mom, The bond between Mothers and their children is one defined by love. As a mother's prayers for her children are unending, so are the wisdom, grace, and strength they provide to their children.

Happy Mother's Day.

Love, Kim & JJ



Marilou, for all your kindness, for all your tender care, love and joy that you have brought to our family, Thank you.

Happy Mother's Day!

Love,
Ed and the kids

To my dear wife,
Every moment and every minute that we spend with you, in our life is a wonderful dream come true. We are forever grateful to God for this marvelous gift of having you..you mean the world to us. We love you so much..

Happy Mother's Day!

With deep love and admiration,
Jojo and Kids Valencia

To the wonderful Manay of **McDonald's**, *we thank you for the years of inspiration and mentorship you've given us. You are an example of an amazing mother and we want to wish you a*

Happy Mother's Day!

From McDonald's family

To the kindest and most hardworking Mama in the whole world, thank you for loving us thoroughly and unconditionally. We don't tell you enough, but we appreciate you. Happy Mother's Day.

We love you Mama!!

Love,
Alwyn, Abby, Aica, Allan, Alex and Dad.

Congratulations to Chief Warrant Officer 2

Maylynn H. Babauta

on being named
"**Best Active Duty Transportation Warrant Officer of the Year**" and for obtaining your Master's Degree from American Military University. We are proud of you. We would like to also greet you a **Happy Mother's Day**. We love you.
From your Son Kody Angel, Dad, and family

Moms bring life into the world,
love into our hearts, and joy into our homes.

Happy Mothers Day

from the staff and management of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

There is no greater GOOD in all the world than MOTHERHOOD.
The influence of a MOTHER in the lives of her CHILDREN is beyond calculation.
Happy Mother's Day!
From the management and staff of
Tan Holdings
www.tanholdings.com
HEALTH IS WEALTH
Tan Siu Lin Foundation

The birth of a *mom*

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@tribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Author's Note: Saipan Tribune *would like to thank the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. management for giving permission to do this interview*

"The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new"
—Bhagwan Rhee Rajneesh

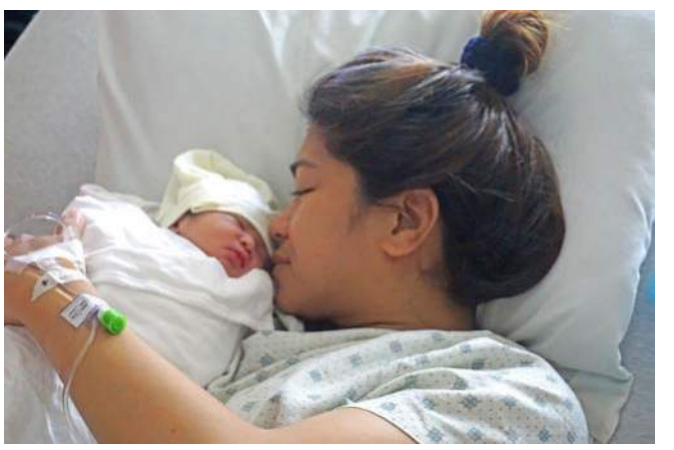
That moment when a woman becomes a mother is a transformative experience not only for the child but also the mother. This is also the moment when the strong bond between mother and child starts, where very moment is precious and every second is bliss.

Let us then pay tribute to new mothers with their babies in tow to talk about the first hours of being a new mother, their transformation, and the different levels of emotions that come with it.

Jessica Marie Romolor gave birth to her first child, Jeremy Anthony Ascano, last Tuesday.

"Being a first-time mom is hard to explain but it's a good experience. Having

See MOM on Next Page



Mary Grace Bautista cradles her new infant. BEA CABRERA

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
Mother's Day Dinner
CELEBRATE THE SPECIAL WOMEN IN YOUR LIVES AT KEVIN'S!
Sunday, May 13, 2018 | 1800-2200
$50.00 Set Menu Children's Menu Available
Polenta Cake with Mesquite Smoked Shrimp
Served with Baby Arugula,
Sundried Tomato & Basil Coulis, Parmesan Foam
Chicken Valdostano
Pan Fried Chicken Breast w/ Prosciutto, Fontina Cheese,
& Mushroom Sauce
Cafe au Lait Creme Brulee, Raspberry Compote
Syphon Coffee or Signature Hot Tea
KEVIN'S
The Prime Rib & Seafood
CALL (670) 322-1234 FOR RESERVATIONS

MOM

From Page 18

him is life-changing because, from now on, it is all about him—our plans for the present and future.

"A baby is something you carry inside you for nine months, in your arms for three years and in your heart till the day you die."
—Mary Mason

Mary Grace Bautista gave birth to her third child, Frizia Aichee S. Bautista, last Tuesday.

"Being a mom is a full-time job, no time-out, and unlimited. Frizia is my third baby but being a new mom is always an adventure and at times scary but the experience and unexplainable feeling is always wonderful.

When you see your baby, all the hardship that you went through immediately fade away and feel an overwhelming love.

Shey Owens kisses her third child, Makai Eliah Owens.
BEA CABRERA

Jessica Romolor and her child.
BEA CABRERA

For me, aside from the Lord, the biggest love that you can give is for your child. No matter how old they grow up to be, I will never stop being a mother to my children," she said.

"Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother."
—Lin Yutang

Shey Owens gave birth to her third child, Makai Eliah Owens, last Wednesday.

"The feeling is surreal. Makai is my third baby and I didn't think that we would have another one but he is here and we are blessed to have a healthy baby.

"I forgot how it felt to have a little one but now it's coming back and it's a miracle. My firstborn, Kanoa, is now 6 years old but, up to now, I marvel at the fact how a human being is capable of loving that much.

"When you have a baby, whether it's your first, second, or third, the feeling that you want to protect that baby, ensure his or her happiness, safety and health comes automatically."

Enjoy Saipan!
iSHOP
Mother's Day
SALE
ENJOY $15.00 OFF EVERY $100 PURCHASE
OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 31, 2018 ONLY.
#iShopforMOM

iShop Paseo
Paseo de Marianas
1 (670) 233-2616

iShop Kanoa
Kanoa Resort Hotel
1 (670) 235-3718

iShop Fiesta
Fieta Resort & Spa
1 (670) 237-0729

SOME CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY. NOT APPLICABLE ON ANY ON-GOING PROMOTIONS.

CELEBRATE
Mother's Day!
at McDonald's
10% DISCOUNT
OFF TOTAL PURCHASE

SUNDAY, MAY 13
- Redeemable only on May 13 at both location Main and Middle Road Stores.
- Applicable to IN-STORE purchases only.
- Mothers must be present to avail discount.
- Discount is not applicable on any existing promotion.

STORE HOURS: Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] • **Chalan Pale Arnold Road:** 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

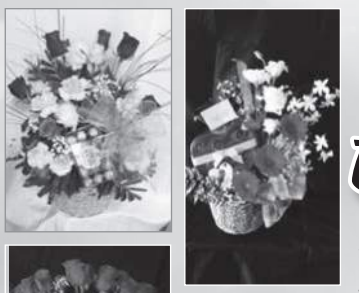
FREE
A LA MODE
Apagigi
FOR M♥MS ON MAY 13!

SWEET TREAT FOR THE
Sweetest
MOM

Shirley's COFFEE SHOP
Home of the Best Fried Rice

shirleyscoffeeshopfanpage @shirleys_saipan shirleyscoffeeshop

Mother's Day
Sunday, May 13th



Mom deserves
the best!

Flowers, gift
items, and more...

- One Dozen Roses
- Single Roses Wrap
- Spring Arrangements
- Fruit/Gift Basket

Memorial Arrangements
Sprays
Free delivery to all cemeteries

Order now!

Design Florist

STORE HOURS:
Monday-Saturday 8:30am - 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 12 noon

Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan • For more information, please call 234-5593 or 235-8572

Wishing all the
mothers a wonderful
and blessed
Mother's Day
and always.

BABAUTA
& SABLAN
for GOVERNOR and LT. GOVERNOR

For our tomorrow,
we must take action now!

2018 #BabautaSablan2018
#TakeActionNow

VOX POPULI

A message for mom

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@tribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

"I would like to thank her for having me. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here. If it wasn't for her inspirations and her model, I wouldn't be who I am today. Thank you for all of your sacrifices for me, my siblings and, of course, for the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren."

—First lady Diann Torres

"To my mom and Ava's grandmother, Monika, happy Mother's Day and thank you for your unconditional love and support."

—Sandy Weaver with daugher Ava Lau Lau

"Happy Mother's Day, Grandma Shorty, who is in Oklahoma! We love her so much as she has accepted everything from us. She has always been supportive of us and we wish we could spend more time with her."

—Joey and Rhea McDoulett, Chinatown

"Mothers are very important figures in our community. I often say that they can take everyone's place but nobody can take her place. For everyone who are celebrating this day with their mothers, I wish them a blessed and a beautiful day. I also would like to honor the mother of my children, my wife for everything that she does for our family. In a very special way, we should also pay tribute to our mothers who have gone before us, like mine who is no longer here, but we still remember everything they've done for us and our families to bring us to where we are at today."

—Rep. Angel Demapan

"Happy Mother's Day to my mom, Laxmi Shresta! Namaste! I love you so much and thank you for support. You're the best mom in the whole world."

—Elina As Matuis

Alamo enterprise rent-a-car National Car Rental

Mother's Day Special

OFFER VALID MAY 9-31, 2018

TOYOTA YARIS $39 or $99 for 3 days

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From now till May 13, spoil mom with a Mother's Day gift card from T Galleria.

What's more, stand a chance to win a $1000 shopping spree when you purchase!

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH GREAT GIFTS, EXCLUSIVE OFFERS, AND MORE!

Free Travel Gifts

Extra Savings on selected Beauty and Fashion Brands

Lucky Draw for 100,000 Loyal T points*

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TGALLERIA.COM

* Terms and conditions apply. See store for details.

"Thank you, Nanay (mother), for loving me unconditionally, for your patience, understanding. Even though you are far away, you still continue to support us, not only your children but also your grandchildren, both in the States and in the Philippines. So, Nanay Noram, I wish you good health, happiness and I hope to see you soon!"-

—Shiela B. Figueroa
OB/NSN unit manager, CHCC

"I would not be here without you. Everything that you have ever given me is a blessing. I am eternally grateful and I love my mom so much. Mothers are the greatest people—they do everything for us, they make sacrifices and they give us their unconditional love. My wish for all the mothers out there is I hope they are treated special every single day because, truly, everyday should be Mother's Day."

—Rep. Ed Prospt

GRAND VRIO RESORT
SAIPAN

RESTAURANT TROPICANA

Happy Mother's Day

Date: May 13, 2018 (Sun) | Time: 11:00am ~ 2:00pm
(Last Order: 1:30pm)

$35 Adult | $17.5 Child (6~11 years) | Local Price Available

Selections: Sashimi, Sushi, Roast Pig, Fish, Chicken, Teppanyaki, Roast Beef, BBQ
Drinks: Champagne, Four Kinds of Beers, Apple Cider, Juices, Ice Tea
(Same menu, same location, same fun... See you on Father's Day)

Live Band Performance
All Mothers may receive a nice gift!

Seafood Night	Seafood Night	Breakfast & Lunch Buffet
Starting May 1, 2018 Every Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat Reg.: $38 (Local: $28)	Starting May 13, 2018 Every Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat Reg.: $38 (Local: $28)	Breakfast Buffet $19 Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri & Sat Lunch Buffet - Wed & Fri Reg.: $20 (Local: $17)

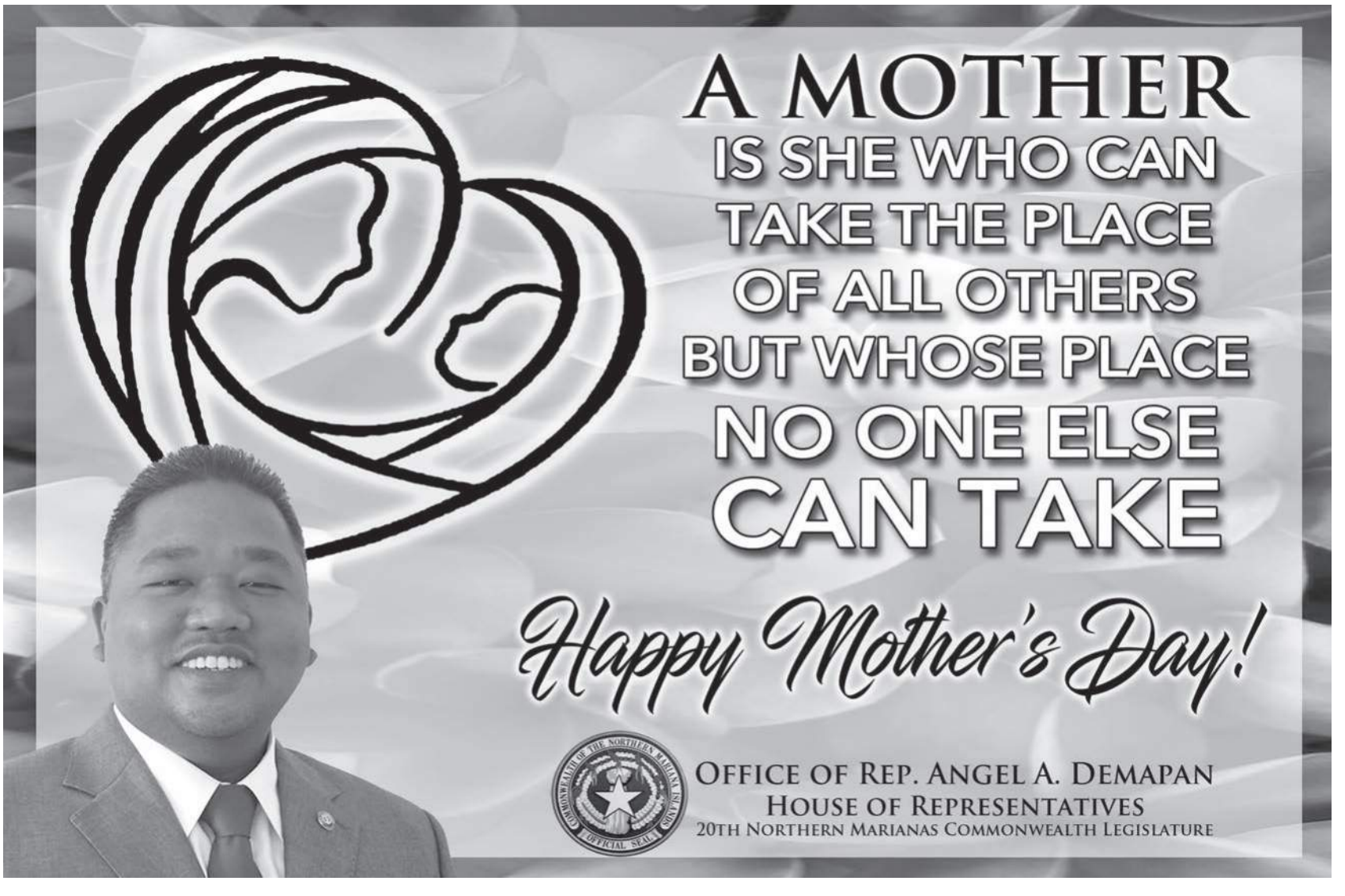
For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or 5825 (in-house) or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

I love you Mom and appreciate you always. I know I can be stubborn but I still love you and thank you much for always being there."

—Carla Ballesteros Gualo Rai

"My mother's name is Malaya Magno and I just want to say thank you for everything that you have given me, even if I am naughty at times. You always give your best to fulfill our needs and I love you so much and enjoy Mother's Day because we will take you on a date."

—Joshua Magno
Capital Hill



To Charlene Castro Buenaventura, have a very happy Mother's Day. I appreciate your support, love, and care all these years. I am happy that you give me your time and effort to make sure I grow up the right way. I love you so much!"

—Ray Castro-Buenaventura
Chalan Kanoa

"I love you so much mommy and I want to hug you."

—Kali Berkland
Capital Hill

Celebrate *Mom's* special day in many ways!

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@tribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A mother thinks about her children day and night, whether they are with her or not. This Mother's Day is our chance to show her that we indeed feel and do the same as we are celebrating her special day—with lots of fun, bonding moments, love, and affection. Make mom enjoy and embrace being a mother even more. Here is a list of how to treat our mothers on her day and tell her "I love you" in so many ways.

■■■

Let your mom see, feel, and touch your love with flowers, gift items and more from **Design Florist.** Choose from an array such as a dozen roses, single roses, spring arrangements, fruit and gift baskets, etc. They are located at the Cabrera Center, Beach Road Garapan. Store hours are Monday to Saturday,

from 8:30am to 6pm and Sunday from 9am to noon. Call 234-5593 or 235-8572 with your order.

■■■

Fill a shopping cart with all of Mom's favorite things at **iShop**, with a Mother's Day sale where you can enjoy $15 off with every $100 purchase until May 31, 2018. IShop stores await in iShop Paseo de Marianas (233-2616), iShop Kanoa Resort (235-3718) and iShop Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan (237-0729).

Treat Mom to a delicious meal and celebrate how special she is to you at **Kanoa Resort** on May 13, from 11am to 2pm at Isla Café. Delight her with free-flowing sparkling wine and bottomless Budweiser beer with everything at $30 for adults and $15 for kids (4-11 years old). Resident discount applies with valid ID. Advance reservations are recommended. Call 234-6601 ext. 742/742 and look for Jen, Julie, or Elaine.

■■■

Let Mom love the Fiesta way by bringing her to brunch at **World Café** at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on May 13, from 11am to 2pm. Brunch comes with free-flowing red and white wine, sparkling wine, beer, and juice. A special gift will be given to all mothers. Enjoy the live entertainment and have a complimentary family picture. Glimmer art body tattoos and pool passes are available. Only $32 for adults and $16 for children. For reservations, call 233-6414, 483-0462 or 234-6414 Ext. 1548.

■■■

Grandvrio Resort is celebrating Mother's Day at Restaurant Tropicana, where the view is spectacular and the food is scrumptious on May 13 from 11am to 2pm. Mom will have a feast with their selection of sashimi, sushi, roast pig, fish, chick-

Continued on Next Page

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL
Governor Ralph DLG. Torres
Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog
HÅFA ADAI YAN TIROW!
This weekend, we celebrate the women who brought us into this world. Women of unconditional love and strength. Every culture in the world holds mothers in high regard, and the same goes for here in the Marianas.
As we celebrate this day where we honor our mothers, let us not just honor them for being our moms, but also honor the sacrifices they have continuously made to ensure we had clothes on our backs, food on our plates, and most importantly smiles on our faces and shoulders to lean on.
To those who won't be celebrating this holiday with their mothers, or for those whose mothers are no longer with us in this life, never hesitate to let them know whether it be through a phone call, or through offered prayers that though they may never be a way you can pay them back for everything they have done, that you appreciate them always.
From our families to yours....
Happy Mother's Day!
RALPH DLG. TORRES
VICTOR B. HOCOG

en, teppanyaki, roast beef and barbecue, paired with champagne, four kinds of beers, apple cider, juices, and iced tea. There will be a live band and mothers may receive a gift. For reservations, call 237-2527 or 237-5825 or email food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com.

■■■

Celebrate Mother's Day the whole day on May 13 at **Aqua Resort Club,** beginning with the Champagne Sunday Brunch from 11am to 2pm at Costa Terrace Restaurant featuring their fresh seafood boat, live sushi station, island roasted pig, Tinian beef steamboat, fresh salad bar, delectable desserts, free-flowing juices, softdrinks, sparkling wine, domestic beer and so much more! It's $40 for adults and $20 for children (resident rates apply). For dinner, Kevin's The Prime Rib & Seafood offers a Mother's Day dinner menu that includes polenta cake with mesquite smoked shrimp served with baby arugula, sundried tomato and basil coulis and parmesan foam, chicken valdostano which is pan-fried chicken breast with prosciutto, Fontina cheese and mushroom sauce. For dessert, bask in café au lait crème brulé and raspberry compoté with siphon coffee or signature hot tea. For lunch and dinner reservations, call 322-1234.

■■■

McDonald's is also a fan of mothers. Celebrate Mother's Day with them and enjoy a 10-percent off total purchase on May 13. This is redeemable only on May 13 at both main and Garapan stores, applicable to in-store purchases only. Moms must be present to avail of the discount and such discount is not applied/offered with other promos.

■■■

Triple J made sure of Mother's Day specials in each of their restaurants: Let mom get the grilled salmon at **Surf Club** for only $27 and call 235-1122 for reservations, the seafood lemongrass soup at **Capricciosa** for only $20 and call 233-9194 for reservations, the New York steak & lobster tail for only $39 at **Truong's** and call 235-8050, and baby back ribs & roast beef for only $35 at **Tony Roma's** and call 233-91-93 for reservations.

■■■

Surprise mom with a living room, kitchen, garden showcase and more. **Triple J Truckload Sale** celebrates Mother's Day with amazing deals on daily essentials, quality brands and must-have electronics. They are open Thursday and Friday, 11am to 7pm, Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sunday from 11am to 6pm. Major credit cards are accepted and for more information, call 322-0430.

■■■

From now until May 13, spoil mom with a Mother's Day gift card from **DFS T Galleria** and a chance to win a $1,000 shopping spree. Other exciting things like free travel gifts, extra savings on selected beauty and fashion brands and lucky draws await mothers on their special day. Store hours are from 10:30am to 10:30pm.

■■■

Docomo Pacific encourages you to capture moments with mom forever. Get $50 off when you purchase a Samsung Note 8, S9, or S9 + with a free wireless charger. Promo applies while supplies last. Offer is valid until May 14. For more information, call 688-CARE or 488-CARE or visit docomopacific,com

■■■

Say "Hey mom, you can drive your own car" with **Alamo, Enterprise Rent-a-Car and National Car Rental** Mother's Day Special. Drive a Toyota Yaris for $39 per day or $99 for three days, a Toyota Corolla for $39 a day or $99 for three days, a Nissan Rogue for $49 a day or $129 for three days, or a Toyota Sienna for $70 a day or $199 for three days. All rates are inclusive of CDW insurance and taxes. Reservation and rental location includes the Saipan International Airport (288-4400), Grandvrio (233-8339), Garapan (233-0111), or hotlines (671) 888-6055 and (670) 285-4405.

■■■

IT&E says go back to your first connection, our moms. Get a Galaxy S9 for $99, Galaxy S9 + for $149 and a Galaxy Note 8 for $99 and share moments that matter. Get a free Samsung wireless charger when you sign up for Freedom Plans.

■■■

It's raining discounts at **Town House Furniture & Appliances**. Is mom dreaming of a four-piece vineyard entertainment set? It is now priced $1,559 from $1,750. Is mom dreaming of a new GE 3.8 CU topload washer? It is now $599 from $699. These and more from May 19 to May 19. Store hours on Tuesday to Saturday are 10am to 7pm. For more information, call 235-6356.

■■■

Joeten celebrates Mother's Day with early bird sale. Enjoy 25-percent off selected clothing items, 20-percent off Seiko watches, shoes, and sandals, and great savings throughout the store. Visit their branches in Susupe, Dandan and Kagman.

Mother's Day
SALE
May 11 to 31, 2018
Say I love you MOM with these gifts for her…
Ladies bags up to 35% off
Selected Kitchen appliances/wares 25% to 35% off
Original Made in Italy Capodimonte figurines/vases – up to 50% off
Selected ceramic decors up to 75% off
ROCKET BLENDER
BLEND, CHOP GRIND & MORE...
24
TSC
TARO SUE CORPORATION
ONE-STOP SHOP
Enviro Aire™
Road and Mountain Bike, Parts Accessories and Repair
MOUNTAIN BIKE
CYCLERS LANE
Visit TARO SUE at our 2 locations
Middle Road, next to Sugar King Park • 1st Floor, Courtney, Building Chalan Kanoa
Monday – Saturday 9:00am – 6:00pm
For inquiries, call 234-5417 (Middle Road) or 234-5416 (Chalan Kanoa)

Abandonment of Iran nuclear deal makes

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

Nothing could better illustrate the dangerous incoherence of President Donald Trump's foreign policy than his announcement Tuesday that he is withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal and reimposing "powerful" sanctions on Tehran.

Contrary to his woeful effort at explanation, this move will not make America safer. On the contrary, it means that Iran will restart a frozen nuclear program and reach bomb-making capacity sooner rather than later. Nor will Trump's move constrain Iran's regional misbehavior; more likely, it will spur further Iranian aggression.

Most dangerous is that there is no sign the president has any Plan B for what to do when his decision worsens the Iran problem. Judging from his words—and those of national security adviser John Bolton—the new White House goal is to facilitate regime change in Tehran.

Shades of George W. Bush's 2003 pipe dreams about regime change in Iraq led by exiles. Such willful ignorance led to the misbegotten Iraq War, and now could drag the United States into a war with Tehran.

Here are five reasons why Trump's blindness in junking the Iran deal is an awful mistake:

1. Rather than making it less likely Iran will get a bomb, the president's move hastens that outcome. Under the deal, Tehran shipped 97 percent of its low-enriched uranium out of the country and dismantled two-thirds of its centrifuges. This increased the time needed for Iran to produce enough fuel for a single bomb from two to three months to at least one year.

Recent Israeli revelations that Iran lied about a pre-2003 nuclear weapons program don't tell us anything new; U.S. intelligence revealed the same thing in 2007. Those lies make it more, not less, necessary to keep intrusive inspections. (The Israeli documents can be used to pressure Iran for additional access.) However, all inspections will end if the deal is junked.

True, the deal had flaws, including sunset clauses that permit Iran to restart the program—under continued inspection – after 10 to 15 years. Nor did it cover missile development or Iran's expansionist behavior in the Mideast—or firmly specify the need to inspect Iranian military sites.

But as America's European allies have argued, those flaws should be addressed by additional talks and/or sanctions.

"Why would we want to relieve Iran of its commitments and restraints now rather than 10 to 15 years in the future?" rightly asks the Brookings Institution's Robert Einhorn, a former State Department special adviser on arms control. Especially when U.S. intelligence officials, including ex-CIA chief, now Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo say Iran is in compliance.

2. Quitting the deal will make any Iranian threat to the United States worse, not better. Although Trump railed against Iranian expansionism, he has proposed pulling 2,000 U.S. special forces out of Syria, which has already emboldened Tehran. Now, Iran will likely up the pressure on those U.S. troops and on U.S. soldiers in Iraq. How does it help curb Iranian militias in Syria or Iraq if Trump frees Tehran to restart making nuclear fuel?

3. Contrary to the claims of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli military brass say abandoning the deal now will make Israel less secure. According to Israel Defense Forces Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot, "Right now, the agreement, with all its faults, is working and is putting off realization of the Iranian nuclear vision by 10 to 15 years." Maj. Gen. (res.) Amos Gilad, former research chief at Military Intelligence, told the newspaper Haaretz that the deal gave Israel a vital window to focus "on more urgent threats" in Syria, where Iran is trying to build military installations that threaten Israel.

The deal's collapse will mean the Iranian nuclear threat once again becomes imminent – with Israel urging Washington to join in air strikes against Iran.

4. Withdrawing from the deal puts Washington at sharp odds with its European allies. Will Trump impose secondary sanctions on Paris, Berlin and London? Such a fierce split among Western allies ends the united front that kept pressure on Tehran, which can now play the victim. That will please Moscow and Beijing.

5. The president has clearly bought the line from Bolton (and Pompeo) that America should push for regime change in Tehran. Bolton admires the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MEK) opposition group in exile that until 2012 was on the U.S. terrorism list for having killed Americans and Iranian civilians. The group has little support within Iran because it allied with Saddam Hussein against its own countrymen in the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s.

In July 2017, Bolton told an enthusiastic crowd at an MEK conference: "The only solution is to change the regime itself, and that's why before 2019 we here will celebrate in Tehran."

Before 2019? Really? The deal may take a while to unravel, but if the White House continues down this senseless path, Tehran will restart its nuclear program sooner or later. What then, President Trump?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

An important step for Tinian

I would like to begin this letter by commending the people of Tinian and its leadership for proceeding with the proposed divert project on Tinian for a number of reasons, the first being economic diversification.

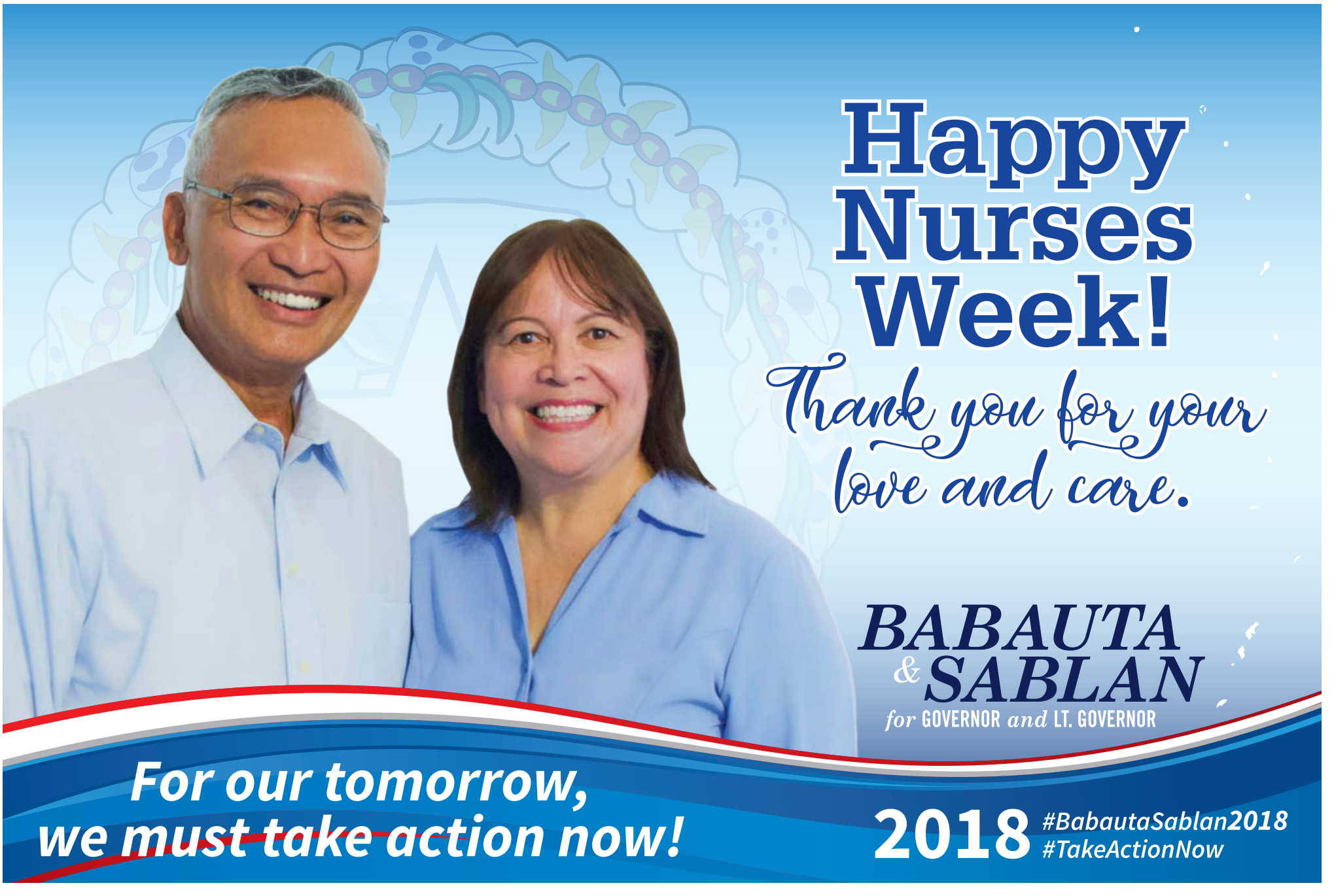
It is important for the Commonwealth as a whole and each island to develop, to the greatest extent possible, a diverse economy that is not entirely reliant on one industry. In the CNMI we have all experienced tremendous setbacks and economic hardship as a result of some catastrophe that affects tourism, for example.

So far, the leadership and officials at the Commonwealth Ports Authority are working to ensure that the divert project is sound, and contributes to the development of Tinian, looking to increase employment, construction that enhances Tinian's overall infrastructure and ensures it is done safely, according to industry standards and that safety and environmental protections are observed and enforced. The mechanism for public input is there: attend the public hearing and write letters for the record.

As someone who has both personal and business interests on Tinian, I endorse the divert project as being a plus for the economy and all concerned.

Naturally, there are concerns with respect to any project but I am confident that the people of Tinian, their leadership, and the U.S. Air Force, can work together to bring about a project that will end up having a positive effect on the economy of Tinian, an important step toward economic self-sufficiency.

Juan S. Tenorio
Airport Road, Saipan



'SHRM did its part'

The CNMI chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management has done its share of helping local officials and the business community in trying to convince U.S. Congress to address the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program issue.

SHRM president Francisco S. Ada told *Saipan Tribune* that the organization represents the human resource management professionals in the Commonwealth and they have provided information and assistance to their members—their companies and employees—since the CW1 visa program began in 2010.

"We've worked to provide speakers from [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service], legal experts, the Office of the Governor, and the CNMI's representative to U.S. Congress to progressively address the issues of the visa program and its eventual conclusion," said Ada.

He said their organization has worked with the administration, the CNMI representative, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.

"SHRM…has supported their efforts to convince U.S. Congress of our workforce needs, our local workforce shortage, and the necessity for continuing the transitional worker program to support our developing economy," said Ada.

USCIS has reduced the CW1 cap from 13,000 to 10,000 and to 5,000 in the current fiscal year.

And with the CW1 program about to end in December 2019, the CNMI would lose a huge number of its workers unless S.B. 2325—introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)—becomes law.

S.B. 2325 passed the U.S. Senate last month and is now awaiting action at the U.S. House of Representatives. If it passes the U.S. House without amendments, the bill goes directly to the desk of President Donald Trump for his signature.

"We are now nearing that pending endpoint. Unless our government representatives, both local and congressional, are successful in their efforts to obtain passage of a statute to extend the program, SHRM's members and other businesses in the community will lose many of their valued and essential employees," said Ada.

He added that the CW1 visa program is a serious issue and situation in the CNMI. "The CNMI will lose long-time residents and contributors to our economy and our community. All of us will lose friends and workmates. Parents and their children may be separated."

"SHRM has long understood the seriousness of this situation, as our members work daily with the staffing and the employee-related issues of their companies."

He added that SHRM and its members have done its part in order to increase the numbers of locally hired workers through its various programs like recruiting off-island and mainland workers.

"[We've] done [our] part through hosting or participating in job fairs, providing workforce readiness programs, attending career days at local schools, supporting internship programs, and sponsoring workshops for managers and business leaders [to address] immigration, recruitment, and the training and development of our workforce," said Ada.

He added that everyone in the CNMI—from the local government and business leaders, and other concerned community organizations—are doing their best to resolve the situation the Commonwealth faces.

"We know that they are working to convince decision makers, far away from our island home and not truly aware of our needs, that the CW1 program should continue. SHRM supports the passage of S.B. 2325 as being good for both our local and non-local workforce."

"We encourage the businesses and citizens of the CNMI community to also support our governor and our [U.S.] representative in their efforts for the passage of this bill." ***(Jon Perez)***

Don Farrell featured in Sunday radio program

This Sunday's "Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program will feature historian Don Farrell, author of *Tinian and the Bomb: Project Alberta and Operation Centerboard.*

Farrell's book chronicles the important and often overlooked role Tinian in the Marianas played in the atomic bombing of Japan at the end of World War II.

As part of the Manhattan Project, Project Alberta and Operation Centerboard, Tinian was integral in the plan to drop atomic bombs on Japan.

The book, now available on Amazon.com and at the American Memorial Park bookstore, captures this history as gathered from documents and images held in the National Archives.

"Your Humanities Half-Hour" radio program, which airs each Sunday from 2pm to 2:30pm on Power 99, is hosted by Catherine R. Perry. ***(PR)***

Business

Sanctions on Iran could cost US, European firms billions

European and American companies could lose billions of dollars in commercial deals canceled and a major new export market undercut by the U.S. decision to re-impose sanctions on Iran.

President Donald Trump's decision will likely most hurt aircraft makers, oil companies and auto manufacturers. The final impact, however, remains unclear because of possible exemptions for some companies and even new negotiations on a revised Iran nuclear agreement, experts say.

Since the Iran nuclear accord was struck in 2015, it has been mostly European companies that moved back in to sign deals with Iran. Europe traditionally has had closer business and diplomatic ties than the U.S., where the legacy lingers from the seizure of hostages at the American embassy in Tehran nearly 40 years ago.

The leaders of Britain, France and Germany tried but failed to persuade Trump to stick with the deal. The reaction from some in Europe was bitter.

Carl Bildt, the former prime minister of Sweden who is now co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, complained that new sanctions "are hardly hitting any U.S. companies, but aim primarily at European ones." Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Union's executive body, said the U.S. "no longer wants to cooperate with other parts of the world" and should be supplanted by the EU on the international stage.

Trump fulfilled a campaign promise by announcing that he will withdraw the U.S. from the nuclear deal. As a consequence, companies worldwide must stop doing business with Iran or risk U.S. fines or other punishment.

U.S. sanctions bar U.S. banks and companies from doing business with Iran. The sanctions also limit foreign companies from dealing with Iran by prohibiting them from using American banks in their operations if they do not sever links with Iran.

Aircraft manufacturers stand to be big losers, with the pain shared between Chicago-based Boeing and Europe's Airbus. U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the companies' existing licenses to sell planes to Iran would be invalidated. Airbus falls under U.S. rules because its planes include U.S.-made components.

Airbus has already delivered three planes out of a 100-jet order placed in December 2016 by Iran's national carrier, Iran Air. The planes are worth around $19 billion at list prices.

Boeing later announced deals with Iran Air and Aseman Airlines totaling 110 planes said to be worth $20 billion. However, list prices are routinely exaggerated, and aviation consultancy Avitas valued the deals at $9.5 billion, given normal discounts.

The aircraft makers will avoid serious damage. The Iranian deals represented a blip in Boeing's business. Boeing never added the planes to its backlog—and if it had, they would have represented less than 2 percent of its 5,800 orders.

Boeing prepared investors for the setback. CEO Dennis Muilenburg said last month that losing the Iranian sales wouldn't slow down production.

"Airbus booked the orders and started delivering planes. Boeing played it safe and did neither, which may have been smart," said Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with airline-industry consultant Teal Group near Washington, D.C. He also said that Iran's demand for new planes was vastly overrated all along.

China's ZTE halts major operations following US export ban

HONG KONG (AP)—Chinese telecommunications company ZTE has halted its main operations after U.S. authorities cut off its access to American suppliers as President Donald Trump steps up pressure over trade and technology issues with Beijing.

"Major operating activities of the company have ceased" as a result of the U.S. Commerce Department "denial order" issued last month, ZTE said in a statement issued late Wednesday.

The Commerce Department has imposed a seven-year sales ban on ZTE in a case involving exports of telecom gear to Iran and North Korea.

ZTE, a major supplier of telecoms networks and smartphones based in southern China, earlier said the ban threatened its existence by choking off access to U.S. suppliers of key technology and components like microchips.

The suspension came amid worsening trade tensions between the U.S. and China centered on technology-related intellectual property, though ZTE's case dates back to before President Donald Trump took office in January 2017.

A U.S. delegation traveled to Beijing last week to discuss the brewing trade conflict with their Chinese counterparts. During the meetings, Chinese officials said they also raised their objections to ZTE's punishment with the U.S. team, who they said agreed to report them to Trump.

ZTE "maintains sufficient cash and strictly adheres to its commercial obligations subject to compliance with laws and regulations," it said in the statement issued to the Hong Kong stock exchange. "The company and related parties are actively communicating with the relevant U.S. government departments in order to facilitate the modification or reversal of the Denial Order by the U.S. government and forge a positive outcome in the development of the matters."

The announcement comes days after ZTE said it had asked the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security to suspend the ban and had submitted extra information to bolster its case.

U.S. authorities imposed the penalty after discovering that Shenzhen-based ZTE had misled regulators involving the illegal shipments to North Korea and Iran. The company paid a $1.2 billion fine in the case but failed to discipline employees involved and paid them bonuses instead.

The company has more than 70,000 employees and has supplied networks or equipment to some of the world's biggest telecoms companies.

MAY 2018

INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL AND BEER GARDEN

AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK

MAY 5, 12, & 19, 2018 (Saturdays) 5:30pm-10:00pm
MAY 26, 2018 (Last Saturday) 5:30pm-11:00pm

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018

5:00 p.m.	Da Kine
6:00 p.m.	Hopwood Dance Music Production Empire
6:30 p.m.,	Hopwood/ChaCha Dancers
7:00 p.m.	CAB Dancers
7:30 p.m.	Saipan Music and Dance Studio
8:00 p.m.	Alana'ai
8:30 p.m.	CAB Dancers
9:00 p.m.	Maharilikan Group
9:30 p.m.	Retro Jazz Band

Entertainment subject to change.

FOOD CONCESSIONAIRES

- Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
- Coral Ocean Golf Resort
- D'Elegence Restaurant
- Fiesta Resort & Spa
- Furusato Restaurant
- Herman's Modern Bakery
- Hyatt Regency Saipan
- Kanoa Resort Saipan
- Kensington Hotel Saipan
- Kinpachi Restaurant
- Matty's BBQ
- Pacific Islands Club Saipan
- Sierra Pearl Shake
- Terry's Snack Bar
- Thai House
- The Hut
- Tony Roma's/Capricciosa
- Tropical Chills

BEER GARDEN VENDORS

- Pacific Trading Company
- Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.
- Saipan Brewing Company

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

The Marianas
Saipan | Tinian | Rota

www.mymarianas.com

2018 CNMI TOURISM MONTH
"Tourism is Everybody's Business"

Roadside Waving
May 18, 2018

Marianas Visitors Authority in collaboration with the MYWAVE Clubs will conduct roadside waving in celebration of Tourism Month on May 18, 2018. Students will be waving at their respective schools from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"See My Marianas" MYWAVE Club Island Tour
May 25, 2018

The Marianas Visitors Authority will collaborate with the MYWAVE Clubs to give a glimpse of the inner workings of the tourism industry. The students will get a special bus ride to the major tourist sites along with a visit to a local hotel and the Marianas Visitors Authority office.

"See My Marianas" Graphic Design Contest

Marianas Tourism Education Council and the MVA are holding a Tourism Month 2018 Graphic Arts Design Contest titled "See My Marianas" for CNMI students in grades 6-12. The deadline to submit entries is May 12, 2018. For contest guidelines and a release form, visit www.mymarianas.com. Submissions must be an original digital design with the words "See My Marianas" featuring a site/location in The Marianas that the artist recommends people to visit. Entries should include the name of the site/location, and a brief 1-4 sentence description of the site.

On-the-Street Interviews

MVA turns the spotlight on the public as randomly selected community members are given an opportunity to share their views on various tourism topics. The questions and answers will be featured regularly via local media.

Radio Tourism Trivia

Call in with the correct answer for your chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas and Tourism Month T-shirts. "Did you know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the Northern Marianas" will be aired regularly throughout the month on Power 99, KCNM-KZMI, and KKMP.

2018 Tourism Month Instagram Contest

Open to residents of The Marianas ages 13 and older. To enter, the contestant must: 1) follow the MVA's official Instagram account @themarianas, 2) post a photo on Instagram showing their representation of "My Marianas"; 3) include all three hashtags - #mymarianas, #themarianas and #tourismmonth2018; 4) tag the MVA @themarianas in the post; and 5) set their profile to public. One prize weekly. Visit www.mymarianas.co/mva-blog/ for complete rules.

For more information contact
MVA at telephone: (670) 664-3200/01
Email: mva@mymarianas.com

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of May 11, 2018

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Office of The Mayor	4/16/2018 TSm-2018-X-02	Tinian Sign	Taga Beach	Shoreline	Approved* 5/4/2018
2. Office of The Mayor	4/16/2018 TSm-2018-X-03	Repair of Existing Ladder	Taga Beach	Shoreline	Approved* 5/4/2018
3. Bridge Investment Group, LLC	4/10/2018 TPIm-2018-X-04	Road Removal	Port of Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 4/26/2018
4. National Park Service dba American Memorial Park	4/27/2018 SW-2018-X-061	Replace rusted culvert and concrete walkway	Garapan	Wetland	Under Review
5. CNMI Department of Public Works	5/1/2018 SW-2018-X-062	Route 34 Road Repair and Bank Stabilization Project	Kagman	Wetland	Under Review
6. Saipan Globe International Group, LTD	5/4/2018 SSWCH-2018-X-063	Soil Investigation	San Roque	Shoreline, Wetland & Coastal Hazard	Under Review
7. Commonwealth Ports Authority	5/4/2018 SPILR-2018-X-064	Miss Saipan Vessel Removal, Floating Dock Installation & Sewage Drainage Line Installation	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial Lagoon and Reef	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Nation

Scientists: Kilauea volcano may have explosive eruption

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—Geologists warned Wednesday that Hawaii's Kilauea volcano could erupt explosively and send boulders, rocks and ash into the air around its summit in the coming weeks.

The risk will rise as lava drains from the summit crater down the flank of the volcano, and explosions could occur if the lava drops below the groundwater level, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

There's also potential for ash, steam and sulfur dioxide emissions.

Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes.

It has destroyed 36 structures since it began releasing lava from fissures that opened in a Big Island neighborhood about 25 miles (40.2 kilometers) east of the summit crater. There are now 15 of the vents spread through Leilani Estates and neighboring Lanipuna Gardens.

In the weeks ahead, the volcano could eject blocks up to 2 yards (1.8 meters) in diameter a little less than a mile (1.6 kilometer) away, the USGS said. It may also send pebbles shooting into the air several miles (several kilometers) away, the USGS said.

The receding lava lake resembles conditions seen before a major summit eruption in 1924, said Tina Neal, scientist-in-charge at the USGS Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory.

That explosion killed one person and sent rocks, ash and dust into the air for 17 days.

The erupting Kilauea volcano on Hawaii's Big Island opened two new vents on Tuesday. It now has at least 14. Aerial video of one of the vents shows lava bubbling up through a crack in a road. (May 9)

This event could occur again when the lava lake drops so low that groundwater is able to flow into the conduit that feeds magma to the summit crater. The magma would heat the water, sending steam into the air that would push any accumulated rocks out in an explosion.

Don Swanson, a geologist with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, said the magma is likely to drop below the water table around the middle of the month. Scientists don't know how long after that it an explosion could occur.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: CPA-RFP-009-18

Date of Issuance: May 7, 2018
Pre-proposal Conference: May 18, 2018 (2:00 p.m.)
Questions & Clarifications Due Date May 25, 2018
Proposal Due Date: May 31, 2018 (2:00 p.m.)

TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR UNDERWATER INSPECTION, SURVEY & INVESTIGATION BAKER & CHARLIE DOCK, PORT OF SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-18

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposal (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from engineering consulting firms interested in Underwater Inspection and Survey services to assist the Authority implementation of corrosion preventive maintenance and other related projects. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225(a)).

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-50 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The RFP Package is available beginning May 07, 2018 at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal to provide professional services for underwater inspection, survey and investigation (RFP-009-18). One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, May 31, 2018**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted if sufficient justification exist that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of the CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY.

EDWARD B. MENDIOLA *Date*
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE TO ALL MARINE SPORTS OPERATORS IN SAIPAN, TINIAN, & ROTA

Pursuant to the recent amendments to NMIAC § 15-10, the Coastal Resources Management Rules and Regulations, the Director of the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be reissuing new Area of Particular Concern (APC) permits to all commercial marine sports operations on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The purpose for reissuing marine sports permits is to ensure such permits reflect updated terms and conditions and comply with the current requirements of NMIAC-10-205(h)(4). DCRM hereby advices all marine sports operators on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to reapply by submitting a new CRM APC permit application to DCRM on or before May 30, 2018. Any marine sports permit issued from previous years will no longer be valid effective May 31, 2018.

ACROSS THE NATION

Freed detainees head home for big welcome, featuring Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Freed after more than a year in prison, three Americans flew homeward from North Korea late Wednesday toward a big middle-of-the-night celebration featuring President Donald Trump—the latest sign of improving relations between longtime adversaries in the buildup to a historic summit between Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Trump promised "quite a scene" at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington for the detainees, who were released as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited North Korea on Wednesday to finalize plans for the summit. Singapore was the likely site, late this month or in early June, for Trump's most ambitious foreign policy effort yet. Shortly after they touched down on American soil in Alaska—for a refueling stop Wednesday afternoon— the State Department released a statement from the freed men. "We would like to express our deep appreciation to the United States government, President Trump, Secretary Pompeo, and the people of the United States for bringing us home," they said. "We thank God, and all our families and friends who prayed for us and for our return. God Bless America, the greatest nation in the world."

President Donald Trump is hailing the release of three Americans detained in North Korea as they make their way back home and says he "appreciates" North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's decision to release them. (May 9)

3 men found not guilty of raping girl, 9, as mom smoked meth

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Three men accused of raping a 9-year-old Utah girl while her mother was smoking methamphetamine in a garage were found not guilty Wednesday after their lawyers argued they couldn't be convicted without physical evidence. Prosecutors said the girl's clear, harrowing testimony that the three grabbed and assaulted her after a 2016 Easter-egg hunt in rural Utah should be enough to convict them. Uintah County attorney Mark Thomas pointed to testimony that helped convict comedian Bill Cosby in his sexual-assault case. But the defense argued that without any blood, hair or serious injuries, the jury couldn't be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt. Attorneys said the child, now 11, was copying a story fabricated by her paranoid mother, who was angry at a former boyfriend who was a defendant. "If everything that she was saying was true, there should be some kind of physical evidence or injury to her," said defense attorney Bryan Sidwell. The jury of five men and three women deliberated for about three hours before reaching the verdict. Defendants Larson RonDeau, 38, Randall Flatlip, 28 and Jerry Flatlip, 31, were held in custody to face additional charges, though some may be thrown out after the acquittal on rape and sodomy counts.

Man pleads guilty to vandalizing Tennessee Islamic Center

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A man pleaded guilty Wednesday to vandalizing a Tennessee Islamic Center last July with profane references to Allah in spray-paint and strips of bacon, federal prosecutors said. Charles Dwight Stout III, 20, was initially charged with civil rights violations and obstruction of justice. Stout now faces a year of supervision and must pay for the damage after pleading guilty to conspiracy and to causing damage to religious property because of its religious character, U.S. Attorney Donald Cochran said. A judge will determine how much Stout will have to pay at a sentencing hearing in August. Stout and a co-defendant, Thomas Gibbs, apologized to the congregation in Murfreesboro during a service focused on forgiveness in March. Stout said he was "very, very sorry" and that he could "imagine the disappointment and the hurt and the fear I caused." He said he wouldn't want anyone to do that to his church.

Mom of teen taken to Mexico by 45-year-old sues man, school

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—The mother of a Pennsylvania 16-year-old girl who police say was taken out of school and to Mexico by a 45-year-old man is suing him and the school, claiming she suffered financial, psychological and emotional harm. Federal agents found 45-year-old Kevin Esterly and 16-year-old Amy Yu in Playa del Carmen in March. He faces charges including interfering with the custody of a child. Mui Luu's federal lawsuit, filed Monday, seeks unspecified punitive damages. It alleges Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School in Bethlehem violated Luu's constitutional rights to her daughter's safety by allowing Esterly to be listed as Yu's stepfather on an emergency form.

Group: Remove statue of doctor who experimented on slaves

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—Alabama should remove a statue from its Capitol grounds honoring a 19th century doctor who operated on slaves without anesthesia as he sought new ways to treat childbirth complications, a group led by a state lawmaker said Wednesday. The statue, erected in 1939, lauds Dr. J. Marion Sims as the "father of modern gynecology." However, Sims' legacy has been tarnished because he developed his technique through operations on enslaved black women in Alabama, without anesthesia. New York City officials last month relocated a statue of Sims from Central Park to the Brooklyn cemetery where Sims is buried. State Sen. Hank Sanders, a Democrat from Selma, and other members of the group Save Ourselves Movement for Justice and Democracy held a press conference calling for the removal of the statue from the Capitol grounds.

NOTICE OF INTENT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

The U.S. Air Force invites you to attend the Public Scoping Meeting for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The U.S. Air Force (Air Force) will host an open house public scoping meeting to discuss the proposal to construct a fuel pipeline from the Tinian seaport to Tinian International Airport, to include a booster pump house, a boom storage building, and associated infrastructure at the Tinian seaport. The Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

In September 2016, the Air Force completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises and the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed December 7, 2016, which announced the Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative (Final EIS, Section 2.7, page 2-52) and specifically the North Option (Final EIS, Section 2.5.2, page 2- 28), as a future Divert location. After the ROD was signed in December 2016, the Air Force conducted further evaluation of the fuel requirement and associated infrastructure, including the feasibility of different alternatives that were not considered in the original EIS. The Air Force now proposes to construct a fuel pipeline to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, and associated infrastructure at the seaport, rather than using fuel trucks for fuel transfer. In addition, recent reconnaissance surveys of the routes proposed for Divert-related vehicles, and coordination with Tinian leadership, indicate the existing surface road network is inadequate to support heavy vehicle traffic required for Divert activities, and is in need of improvements. Therefore, the Air Force also proposes to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert-related projects.

SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Air Force will prepare an SEIS, which will assess the potential environmental consequences of the proposed infrastructure improvements on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING. The public is encouraged to attend an "open house" scoping meeting to learn more about the proposal and assist the Air Force in scoping issues to evaluate in the SEIS. The meeting will be arranged in a "come and go" format with no formal Air Force presentation or opportunity for public testimony. Written comments will be accepted at the meeting; your input is valuable and assists the Air Force in making more informed decisions. Please drop in anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on May 17, 2018 (ChST) at the Tinian Elementary School cafeteria. A Chamorro/Carolinian interpreter will be available at the scoping meeting to assist with translation of meeting materials and written comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT. The Air Force welcomes comments, suggestions, and relevant information on the proposal. Please submit comments in English at the public scoping meeting, by visiting www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com, or contacting Ms. Melissa Markel! at the address below. Address comments to:

Ms. Melissa Markel!, AFCEC/CZN
Attn: Tinian Divert SEIS
2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155
JBSA Lackland, TX 78236-9853

The Air Force also welcomes comments under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800) regarding the identification of or effects on historic properties. If you have comments or would like to become a consulting party in the Section 106 process, please visit the project website or contact Ms. Melissa Markel!, AFCEC/CZN at the address above.

To ensure the Air Force has sufficient time to consider public input in the Draft SEIS and the Section 106 process, please submit comments by May 31, 2018.

www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com

Asia

Mahathir: Clear mandate to govern, vows reforms

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's former authoritarian ruler Mahathir Mohamad, who in an unlikely political comeback led opposition parties to an unprecedented election victory, said Thursday they have a clear mandate to form a government and insisted he should be immediately confirmed as prime minister.

In a lively news conference peppered with cussing and trademark wisecracks, 92-year-old Mahathir flagged significant changes for Malaysia which he described as being left in a "mess" by defeated Prime Minister Najib Razak and the National Front coalition.

Najib, whose reputation was battered by an epic corruption scandal and an unpopular goods and sales tax, conceded defeat, ending 60 years of unbroken rule by the Malay-dominated National Front.

The U.S. Justice Department says $4.5 billion was looted from state investment fund 1MBD by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014, including $700 million that landed in Najib's bank account. He has denied wrongdoing.

Mahathir disputed Najib's assertion that Malaysia's king must appoint the new prime minister because no single party has a parliamentary majority, calling it "confusion." The constitution, he said, only specifies that the prime minister must represent those with a majority in the legislature.

"We need to have this government today without delay," Mahathir said. "There is a lot of work to be done. You know the mess the country is in and we need to attend to this mess as soon as possible," he said.

AP

Mahathir Mohamad reacts as he speaks during a press conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday, May 10, 2018.

Mahathir, leader for 22 years until stepping down in 2003, said the new government would seek the release and full pardon of Anwar Ibrahim, an opposition icon imprisoned on sodomy charges that Anwar and his supporters said were fabricated by the National Front to crush the opposition. Anwar, whose sentence ends on June 8, should be free to participate in politics, he said.

On the economic front, Mahathir vowed to cancel a goods and service tax imposed since 2015 and said the government could also renegotiate the terms of Chinese loans for infrastructure projects.

He also criticized a "fake news" law pushed through parliament by the National Front during the lead-up to the election. Mahathir is being investigated under that law for claiming his plane had been sabotaged during the campaign.

Supporters of the incoming government took to the streets of Kuala Lumpur to celebrate their unexpected victory.

People stood on roadsides waving the white, blue and red flag of the opposition alliance that triumphed in Wednesday's election. Cars honked their horns as they sped past.

"I'm so happy," said Zarini Najibuddin while waving the opposition flag. "I hope we'll have a better Malaysia now. Malaysia reborn!"

Mahathir was credited with modernizing Malaysia during his rule but was also known as a heavy-handed leader who imprisoned opponents and subjugated the courts.

Angered by the graft scandal at 1MDB, Mahathir emerged from political retirement and joined the opposition in an attempt to oust Najib, his former protege. He said the new government will not conduct a witch hunt, but Najib will have to face the consequences if he has broken the law.

In his concession speech, Najib said he accepted the "verdict of the people."

The National Front "will honor the principle of democracy in the parliament," he said.

Powerful dust storm, rain leaves 11 dead in northern India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—A powerful dust and rain storm demolished homes and downed power lines in northern India, killing at least 11 people, an official said Thursday, a week after another unseasonable storm caused deaths and destruction in the same region.

The storm with winds blowing up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) per hour swept western parts of Uttar Pradesh state on Wednesday night, toppling trees and demolishing dozens of mud and brick homes, said Avanish Awasthi, a state government official. Uprooted electric poles and downed wires plunged several villages and towns into darkness. In addition to the deaths, 25 people were injured.

The storm also hit New Delhi and parts of northern Himachal Pradesh and western Rajasthan states, but with weaker winds and no immediate reports of any casualties. The India Meteorological Department said the stormy conditions were subsiding in northern India.

On Wednesday night, four people died in Etawah district, three in Mathura district and one each in Agra, Aligarh, Kanpur and Firozabad towns in Uttar Pradesh state, Awasthi said.

A similar unseasonal powerful dust storm and thundershowers a week ago left more than 120 people dead and another 200 injured in five Indian states. Seventy-three of them died in the worst-hit northern Uttar Pradesh state alone.

The monsoon season is nearly six weeks away in India.

N. N. Srivastava, another Uttar Pradesh state official, said the storms have affected the lives of more than 100 million residents who also lost cattle, buffalo and crops. Schools and colleges were closed in several districts based on the storm warnings, he said.

World

Israel strikes 'dozens' of Iranian targets in Syria

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military on Thursday said it attacked "dozens" of Iranian targets in neighboring Syria in response to an Iranian rocket barrage on Israeli positions in the Golan Heights, in the most serious military confrontation between the two bitter enemies to date.

Israel said the targets included weapons storage, logistics sites and intelligence centers used by elite Iranian forces in Syria. It also said it destroyed several Syrian air-defense systems after coming under heavy fire. It said none of its warplanes was hit.

The blistering Israeli assault was by far the most intensive Israeli action in neighboring Syria since the civil war broke out there in 2011. Israel has largely tried to stay on the sidelines, but has previously acknowledged carrying out over 100 airstrikes over the past seven years, most believed to be aimed at Iranian weapons shipments bound for the Hezbollah militant group.

There was no immediate word on Iranian casualties. Syria's capital of Damascus shook with sounds of explosions just before dawn, and firing by Syrian air defenses over the city was heard throughout the night.

Syria's state news agency SANA quoted a Syrian military official as saying Israeli missiles hit air defense positions, radar stations and a weapons warehouse, but claiming most incoming rockets were intercepted.

In recent months, Israel has warned that it will not accept a permanent Iranian military presence in Syria. Iran has accused Israel of carrying out a series of deadly strikes on Iranian military positions in Syria in recent weeks, and had vowed retaliation. Iran has sent thousands of troops to back Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Israel fears that as the fighting nears an end, Iran and tens of thousands of Shiite militiamen will turn their focus to Israel.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, a military spokesman, said Israel was not looking to escalate the situation. But he said troops will continue to be on "very high alert."

"Should there be another Iranian attack, we will be prepared for it," he said.

Iran's ability to hit back could be limited. Its resources in Syria pale in comparison to the high-tech Israeli military. Iran also could be wary of military entanglement at a time when it is trying to salvage the international nuclear deal.

Earlier Thursday, Israel said Iran's Al Quds force fired 20 rockets at Israeli front-line military positions in the Golan Heights. Conricus said four of the rockets were intercepted, while the others fell short of their targets. The incoming attack set off air raid sirens in the Israeli-controlled Golan, which was captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast war.

Syria's state media said Syrian air defenses intercepted "hostile Israeli missiles" early Thursday that were fired over southwestern Damascus. Hours later, state-run Al-Ikhbariya TV broadcast a live feed of Syrian air defenses firing into the sky above the capital, and loud explosions and air defense firing were heard through the night.

Syrian activists reported Israeli airstrikes hitting targets near Damascus. One video posted online showed a large explosion and shrapnel flying in the air. Residents reported loud sounds that rocked their buildings. It was not immediately clear what was hit.

Al-Ikhbariya TV said Israel also targeted military posts in southern Suweida province, including an air base, and struck near Homs in central Syria. The state TV station said the attacks were foiled.

Russian tycoon known for Faberge eggs tied to Cohen payment

MOSCOW (AP)—Outside the rarified sphere of the super-rich, tycoon Viktor Vekselberg is mostly known in Russia for spending more than $100 million to bring cultural artifacts back to his homeland, including an array of Faberge eggs glittering with gold and jewels.

By Vekselberg's standards, the money he laid out wasn't all that much: His fortune has been estimated at about $14.6 billion.

But after his holding company Renova was hit by U.S. sanctions against Russia in April, his worth appeared to shrink markedly, and he reportedly has asked the Russian government for help to stay afloat.

Now Vekselberg is facing new scrutiny.

U.S. news reports said he has been questioned by the staff of Robert Mueller, the special counsel investigating alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election and any possible coordination with associates of President Donald Trump. And documents reviewed by The Associated Press suggest that a company associated with Vekselberg routed money to Trump lawyer Michael Cohen's consulting firm in 2017.

Vekselberg, 61, was born in Soviet Ukraine. After graduating from the Moscow Transportation Engineering Institute, he reportedly made his first significant money by selling copper salvaged from scrapped cables during the period of economic reforms under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

He built his fortune by investing in the aluminum and oil industries, taking advantage of the wide open and often questionable privatization of state companies after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

He secured a controlling interest in the Tyumen Oil company, one of Russia's largest oil operations, and his holding company, Renova Group, and two other holding companies later merged their assets and established the TNK-BP joint venture with British Petroleum, which later was acquired by state oil giant Rosneft. More recently, he has expanded his assets to include industrial equipment and high technology.

Renova has sizable investments in the U.S. through the investment management company Columbus Nova. The firm's operations include tech investments, real estate management and merchant banking, according to corporate and web documents.

Columbus Nova was described in a 2007 corporate document filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an "affiliate" of Renova. Columbus Nova is headed by Andrew Intrater, who is described as a cousin of Vekselberg in the documents reviewed by AP and in other media reports.

Intrater donated $250,000 to Trump's inauguration in 2017, presidential finance documents show.

Off The Wall

Liquid choco spills on highway

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A tractor-trailer has overturned on a Polish highway, spilling tons of liquid chocolate that are solidifying into a huge sticky mess.

The private broadcaster TVN24 showed images of an overturned truck surrounded by brown chocolate covering six lanes on the A2 motorway, blocking traffic in both directions.

Rescue officials said the liquid chocolate was solidifying as it cooled and would require large amounts of hot water to clear away.

Tons of liquid milk chocolate are spilled and block six lanes on a highway after a truck transporting it overturned near Slupca, in western Poland, on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. AP

Senior brigadier Bogdan Kowalski with the fire brigade of Slupca, a town in western Poland, said, "the cooling chocolate is worse than snow."

TVN24 reported from the site of the accident that the driver was taken to a hospital with a broken arm. The accident occurred in the morning when there was little traffic and nobody else was hurt.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

State trooper uses jerky to rescue pup from highway

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts state trooper has rescued a dog running loose in the middle of an interstate with the bribe of a homemade snack. Trooper Nick D'Angelo responded to a report of a pup running loose along Interstate 190 in Worcester on Wednesday morning. State police say the dog, named Dozier, was "hot doggin' it," down the highway as stopped motorists tried to capture him. D'Angelo lured Dozier to safety with some homemade deer jerky. Dozier has been reunited with his owner. Massachusetts State police say it's always great making new friends, two- and four-legged.

Video shows 11-year-old escaping Chicago-area carjacking

AURORA, Ill. (AP)—Surveillance video shows an 11-year-old girl jumping out of a carjacked SUV in suburban Chicago as her father tries to stop a car driven by the carjacker's accomplice. The carjacking took place early Friday in Aurora at a gas station. In the video, the girl is seen jumping out of the SUV and rolling on the ground. Her father leaps onto the hood of the accomplice's car as both vehicles speed away. He then comforts the girl before police arrive. Police say the girl and her father were not hurt. An Illinois State Police trooper spotted the stolen SUV less than an hour later on Interstate 290 and a 20-year-old Chicago man suspected in the carjacking was arrested following a brief chase. His accomplice is being sought.

Rescuers bitten after mistaking bobcats for domestic kittens

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Three well-meaning people suffered bites when the kittens they rescued after hearing them mewling in a San Antonio alley turned out to be ravenous bobcat cubs. The caretakers found the blue-eyed, stub-tailed pair of young bobcats on Saturday and, thinking they were Bengal kittens, took them in. They fed the bobcats milk from pet-feeding bottles, but realized something was amiss when the aggressive animals tore the bottles apart and bit them. They called animal control officers and a wildlife rescue group took the wild cats away. Workers intended to wait in the alley hoping to find the mother and reunite her with the cubs.

Firefighter gets creative with marriage proposal

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Firefighters helped one of their own pull off a marriage proposal. Fayetteville, North Carolina, firefighter Ashton Hanway asked Lauren Wood to visit Station 17 on Friday to take some pictures. His captain suggested they stand on top of a truck. An alarm sounded and two firefighters got into an adjacent truck. When they pulled out, they revealed a fire hose on the floor that spelled out: "Will you marry me?" Hanway tells The Fayetteville Observer he was trying to write in cursive and it took several hours to do everything. Wood, who said yes, says it was a complete shock. She described it as an "out-of-body experience." The couple, who have been together for six years, are planning a 2019 wedding.

Couple get up-close view of moose that stares through window

MERRIMACK, N.H. (AP)—A New Hampshire couple have gotten an up-close view of a moose that wandered into their yard, right up to their window. The couple caught the moose's surprise visit on video and posted it on YouTube, where it has received thousands of views since Tuesday morning. The video shows the moose nibbling leaves on a tree across the street outside the couple's Merrimack home and then walking up to the home and standing inches away from the camera. Resident Nichole DiVietro posted on Facebook it was her first time seeing a moose. She says she named the moose Mooshy, after her sister, Michelle, who recently died.

Can you spare a dime? Truck full of coins crashes in Nevada

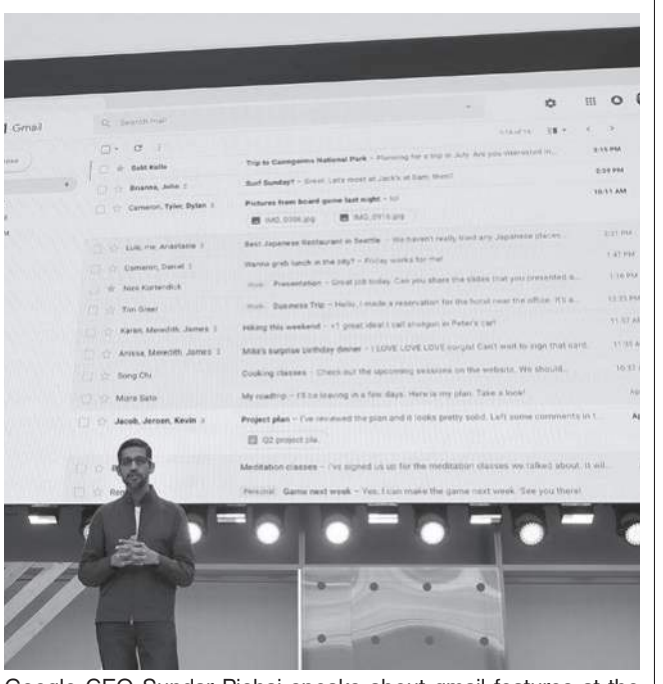
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Brother can you spare a dime? How about 8 million of them? A semi-trailer truck hauling $800,000 worth of dimes crashed Tuesday into a guard rail on an interstate near Las Vegas, spilling thousands of coins on the side of the road. State troopers established a crime scene so a recovery team could collect the money, The Nevada Highway Patrol says the truck was heading south on I-15 about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Las Vegas when it hit a guard rail in the early morning. KSNV-TV reported Wednesday the truck was hauling the money under a contract with the U.S. Treasury Department when it dumped the load and several bags split open. The driver and a passenger were taken to a hospital. Their injuries aren't considered life-threatening.

Science & Technology

Simplify your life with AI

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google put the spotlight on its artificial intelligence smarts at its annual developers conference Tuesday, announcing new consumer features aimed at simplifying your life.

Many of the updates have a practical bent, designed to ease tasks such as composing emails, making lists, navigating city streets and lessening the digital distractions that have increasingly addled people's lives as a result of previous tech industry innovations.



Google CEO Sundar Pichai speaks about gmail features at the Google I/O conference in Mountain View, Calif., Tuesday, May 8, 2018. AP

One of the biggest crowd-pleasers for the thousands of software developers who gathered at the outdoor conference was an augmented reality feature on Google Maps that helps people get walking directions. Users will be able to follow arrows—or possibly a cartoon-like creature—that appear on a camera view showing the actual street in front of them.

Some new features for Android phones also aim to improve people's digital well-being, including a new "shush" mode that automatically puts a phone in "do not disturb" mode if you flip it face down on a table. And a "wind down" mode will fade the screen to grey at a designated time to help you disconnect before bed.

The company's digital concierge, known only as the Google Assistant, is getting new voices—including one based on that of musician John Legend—later this year. It will also encourage kids to be polite by thanking them when they say please, similar to a feature Amazon is bringing to its Alexa voice assistant.

The assistant may also soon be talking with ordinary people at businesses for tasks such as restaurant reservations, although the feature is still in development.

"Hi, I'm calling to book a hair appointment for a client," said a realistic-sounding automated voice in a demo from the conference stage. The AI assistant deployed pauses and "ums" and "mmm-hmms" to sound more human in conversation with real people.

Google said it will roll out the technology, called Duplex, as an experiment in coming weeks. "We really want to work hard to get this right," said Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who kicked off the conference, known as Google I/O.

Other changes are more immediate. Gmail is getting an autocomplete feature that uses machine learning to offer suggestions for finishing half-completed sentences. For example, "I haven't seen you" might be autocompleted to "I haven't seen you in a while and I hope you're doing well." You can accept the completion by hitting the tab key.

The Google Photos app aims to get smarter about suggesting who you might want to share photos with. Whenever it recognizes a photo of one of your Google contacts, it can suggest sharing the photo with that person. It will also convert photos to PDFs and automatically add color to black-and-white photos or make part of a color photo black and white. The changes are coming in the next two months.

The search giant aims to make its assistant and other services so useful that people can't live without them—or the search results that drive its advertising business. But it also wants to play up the social benefits of AI and how it's being used to improve health care, preserve the environment and make scientific discoveries.

Pichai didn't emphasize the privacy and data security concerns that have put companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google in the crosshairs of regulators. But he did say the company "can't just be wide eyed about the innovations technology creates."

"We know the path ahead needs to be navigated carefully and deliberately," he said. "Our core mission is to make information more useful, accessible and beneficial to all of society."

Google's latest version of its Android phone software, for now known as Android P, will offer other smart features. It will teach the battery to adapt to how you use apps in order to conserve energy. Phones using Android P will also learn how to set your screen brightness by studying your manual adjustments, a change from automatic adjustments based on ambient light levels.

But not everyone will see the new Android features soon—if at all. Android P won't be released until later this year, and even then, phone manufacturers and carriers frequently limit Android updates to their newest phones. Owners of Google's own Pixel phones will get the updates most quickly.

Samsung is getting snubbed on some of these new features, at least for now. It has been challenging Google more frequently by launching that services duplicate what Google already offers on Android.

For instance, Samsung users won't have access to an early "beta" version of Android P. Samsung's camera app also won't get a built-in Lens feature that lets Google offer information after taking a photo of a building or sign. Samsung has been developing its own similar feature called Bixby Vision.

It wasn't immediately clear which company made the call to withhold the features announced Tuesday.

Life & Style

Joeten BBQ Ribs Cook-off tomorrow at 'Taste'

The 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden returns tomorrow, May 12, with more food and festivities, including the Joeten Barbecue Ribs Cook-off, with judging time starting at 7:30pm.

The cook-off welcomes teams of one or two adults to compete. Prizes are: first place, $300 Joeten gift certificate and an IT&E cellphone; second place, $200 Joeten gift certificate, and an IT&E cellphone; and third place, an IT&E cellphone.

Registration is open to 10 entries and closes today, May 11, at 4pm. Rules and registration forms are available and must be submitted to the Marianas Visitors Authority office on Beach Road in San Jose.

The annual signature event of the MVA kicked off last Saturday, May 5, bigger, better, and with monster burritos at American Memorial Park.

The weekly celebration marking May Tourism Month featured five more food vendors than last year, a wider area to more comfortably accommodate the crowd, and mammoth 5-lb creations for the first-ever The Hut Burrito Challenge.

Zachariah Johnson bested four other competitors in The Hut Burrito Challenge competition, leaving only a few bites left of his gargantuan burrito and polishing off his feat with a shot of tequila after the 20-minute challenge. Johnson walked away with the grand prizes of a Samsung S7 from IT&E and $75 in Taste of the Marianas tokens.

"The opening night of Taste was fantastic. We broke our record for the second highest number of tokens sold on any of the nights in the history of the Taste of the Marianas. We had a larger layout so people were able to traverse more easily. We had a record number of vendors this year. The entertainment lineup was excellent. We are excited for the next three Saturdays in May," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion.

Festivities will continue this Saturday, May 12, with entertainment by Da Kine at 5pm, Hopwood Dance Music Production Empire at 6pm, Hopwood/ChaCha Dancers at 6:30pm, CAB Dancers at 7pm, Saipan Music and Dance Studio at 7:30pm, Alana'ia at 8pm, CAB Dancers at 8:30pm, Maharilikan Group at 9pm, and Retro Jazz Band at 9:30pm

"Due to the popularity of 'Taste,' this year we are starting entertainment at 5pm, and we are allowing those vendors who are interested to begin selling at 5:30pm," said MVA Community Projects specialist and lead event coordinator Ray Villagomez.

Japan's famous female food fighter Sachiyo Masubuchi will join the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 19, 2018, taking on all local and international challengers in the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition. Applications are available at the MVA office on Beach Road in San Jose. Registration for the J's Fried Chicken Eating Competition closes on Monday, May 14, at 4pm. Masubuchi is a famed competitive eater and holds numerous records in Japan. She is well-known in Japan as a TV personality, model, actress and a beauty contestant.

Participating food vendors are Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Furusato Restaurant, Kinpachi Restaurant, Matty's BBQ, D'Elegance Restaurant, The Hut, Herman's Modern Bakery, Thai House, Terry's Snack Bar, Sierra Pearl Shake, and Tropical Chills. Participating drink vendors are Mar-Pac, Pacific Trading Co., and Saipan Brewing Co. ***(MVA)***

Sunset Cruisers open the 20th Annual Taste of the Marianas. MVA

D'Elegance Restaurant and 20 other vendors offer a various of international food and drink. MVA

Zach Johnson, center, shows off his certificates for a Samsung S7 and festival tokens after winning The Hut Burrito Challenge. From left are competitor Simon Necesito, competitor Daniel Kintol, judge Rep. Angel A. Demapan, Johnson, judge Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and competitor Kirk Johns. Not pictured is competitor Andrew Jon Songsong. MVA

Zacariah Johnson eats his way to finish first in The Hut Burrito Challenge. MVA

Thomas Deleon Guerrero prepares 5-lb burritos for The Hut Burrito Challenge. MVA

Kinpachi Restaurant serves "takoyaki" (octopus balls). MVA

Thai House serves traditional Thai cuisine. MVA

Sierra Shakes offers 17 shaved ice flavors and more cold sweets. MVA

A family eyes the offerings of Matty's BBQ. MVA

Herman's Modern Bakery. MVA

Sake sampling is offered by the Consulate Office of Japan. MVA

Rob Epley and son William sample a strawberry-banana smoothie for Tropical Chills. MVA

Alfia Tuilosega, right, and Abigal Saui'a of Flowerpot Creations. MVA

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Katy Perry sends Taylor Swift an olive branch ahead of tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift has received a peace offering from Katy Perry before launching her new tour. Swift shared a video on her Instagram Stories on Tuesday showing a package that Perry sent that included an olive branch. Inside was a letter in which Perry wrote that she was "deeply sorry" and wanted to "clear the air." Swift says it "means so much to me" and her video was captioned "Thank you Katy." The feud between the singers began in 2014 after Swift told "Rolling Stone" that another singer had taken one of her dancers. Perry then compared Swift to a character from "Mean Girls." Swift kicked off her Reputation tour Tuesday at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

'Iron Man' suit disappears from LA movie prop facility

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police are investigating the disappearance of an expensive "Iron Man" suit from a Los Angeles movie prop storage facility. Los Angeles police Officer Christopher No said Wednesday a police report was filed Tuesday and that the suit's estimated value is $325,000. The suit apparently went missing from the facility in the Pacoima neighborhood between February and April 25. KCBS-TV first reported the investigation and says the crimson-and-gold costume was used in the 2008 "Iron Man" film, which starred Robert Downey Jr.

Court says OK for Cannes to show Gilliam's Don Quixote film

PARIS (AP)—After nearly two decades of problems, Monty Python star Terry Gilliam's long-awaited film "The Man Who Killed Don Quixote" will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next week after all. A last-minute effort to block the film failed Wednesday, as a Paris court ruled in favor of the Cannes festival and rejected a lawsuit by Portuguese producer Paulo Branco. Branco, who initially worked with Gilliam on the film, claims he also has rights to the movie. Gilliam contests Branco's claims. The film will close the festival May 19, after years of production problems, funding issues and legal woes. Starring Adam Driver and Stellan Skarsgard, it is loosely based on the classic novel by Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes. "For more than twenty years this film was almost buried by various obstacles and many have said on various occasions that there was a curse on this movie. Well today this curse is broken thanks to the Justice," said Gilliam's lawyer Benjamin Sarfaty, calling it a "great relief" for the ailing director.

Polish official withstands da Vinci purchase criticism

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland's culture minister survived a no-confidence vote Wednesday after he was accused of wasting public money for paying 100 million euros ($120 million) to a Polish-Spanish aristocrat for an art collection that includes Leonardo da Vinci's "Lady with an Ermine." In 2016, Piotr Glinski purchased the collection for Poland from Prince Adam Karol Czartoryski, a cousin to Spain's former King Juan Carlos. It has about 86,000 items including works by Rembrandt and objects of great historical value to the Poles. Glinski's critics argued that no transaction was needed at all as the collection had been originally intended as Poland's property and had Polish connections dating back to the 18th century. It was started in the 1790s by Princess Izabela Czartoryska as a gift to Poland and has gone through much historical turmoil.

Hard Rock granted casino license in Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—Hard Rock had an easy time with New Jersey gambling regulators on Wednesday, gaining a license to reopen a casino and begin Atlantic City's recovery from a string of gambling hall closures on a property that President Donald Trump once hailed as "the eighth wonder of the world." The Casino Control Commission granted a license to Hard Rock, the worldwide hotel, gambling and entertainment company owned by Florida's Seminole Indian tribe. It is reopening the former Trump Taj Mahal. The casino is set to reopen on June 28—the same day as another shuttered Boardwalk casino, the former Revel property, that will open as the Ocean Resort Casino. Together, the new casinos will restore as many as 6,500 of the 11,000 jobs Atlantic City lost when five of its 12 casinos went out of business since 2014. Casino officials say Hard Rock has received 50,000 applications for 4,000 jobs.

MIT looking into allegations against author Junot Diaz

BOSTON (AP)—MIT says it's looking into allegations of sexual misconduct against author Junot Diaz. A spokeswoman for the university in Cambridge, Massachusetts, didn't immediately comment Wednesday on the status of the inquiry. The school said earlier this week it doesn't tolerate sexual harassment but that it also strives to protect the rights of both the accusers and accused. Diaz is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and creative writing professor. The Cambridge Public Library also announced Wednesday it has canceled its annual Summer Reading Kick-Off featuring Diaz. It had been slated for May 16. Author Zinzi Clemmons took to Twitter on Friday to say that Diaz forcibly kissed her several years ago. Other female writers also shared their encounters with Diaz on social media. Diaz has said he takes responsibility for his past.

Trial set for physician in guitarist's fatal overdose

An Alabama physician is scheduled to go on trial Friday on charges that he improperly prescribed fentanyl and other drugs to 3 Doors Down guitarist Matthew Roberts, who died of a drug overdose. Dr. Richard Snellgrove of Fairhope faces a 13-count federal indictment in Mobile alleging unlawful distribution of controlled substances and health care fraud. An indictment alleges he prescribed the drugs that killed Roberts, who was found dead in August 2016 in a hotel hallway near Milwaukee. Roberts was to perform a charity concert there. Court papers state Snellgrove began prescribing drugs to Roberts as early as 2005 and knew Roberts had addiction problems. Snellgrove has pleaded not guilty. He faces up to 240 years in prison and up to $2.8 million in fines if convicted. Roberts' family is also suing Snellgrove and Rite Aid Corp. and others in a civil lawsuit in state court in Alabama. Court records show that case is stayed pending the outcome of Snellgrove's criminal case.

Watches, wardrobe of comedian Jerry Lewis to be auctioned

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Property that belonged to famed comedian Jerry Lewis will be auctioned next month in Las Vegas. Julien's Auctions says some of his watches, including one given to him by Dean Martin, and his wardrobe and props from the 1963 film "The Nutty Professor" are among the items that will be auctioned. The auction house says the watch is engraved with the phrase "Jerry My Buddy/ and Pal/ I Love You/ Dino." It is expected to sell for between $4,000 and $6,000. A custom-made tweed burgundy suit that Lewis wore in the film is expected to fetch between $2,000 and $4,000. Lewis, whose fundraising telethons became as famous as his hit movies, died Aug. 20. The estate auction will take place June 22 at Planet Hollywood casino-resort.

Tom Hanks' Fred Rogers film dated for October 2019 release

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Fred Rogers drama "You Are My Friend" starring Tom Hanks as the beloved television host is coming to theaters in late 2019. Sony Pictures says Wednesday that the film will be released on October 18, 2019. The story is inspired by the real-life friendship between Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. Marielle Heller, who made the well-reviewed coming-of-age drama "Diary of a Teenage Girl," is directing the film. This year marks the 50th anniversary of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," inspiring a PBS special, a postage stamp and a feature-length documentary "Won't You Be My Neighbor," which hits theaters on June 8.

Martin Scorsese returns to Cannes, recalls 'Mean Streets'

CANNES, France (AP)—Forty-four years after his Cannes Film Festival debut, "Mean Streets," Martin Scorsese returned to the Croisette Wednesday to recall his breakthrough film, one he said he only understood years later. A day after declaring open the 71st Cannes with jury president Cate Blanchett, Scorsese joined a post-screening conversation for "Mean Streets," which played in Cannes' Directors Fortnight section in 1974. "This was the first time for me at Cannes," said Scorsese. "And it was almost the best because of anonymity and trying very hard to change that." "Mean Streets," of course, helped establish Scorsese, who then had two features under his belt ("Who's That Knocking on My Door" and "Boxcar Bertha"). Two years after "Mean Streets" landed in Cannes, Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" would win the Palme d'Or despite booing at its premiere and the reported apprehensions of jury president Tennessee Williams. And "Mean Streets," about two Catholic brothers—Harvey Keitel's responsible, guilt-ridden Charlie and Robert De Niro's more combustible Johnny Boy—in a violent, gangster-controlled Little Italy, remains one of Scorsese's most personal films.

In-laws' public scorn chips away at man's confidence

DEAR ABBY: I have a great marriage to an amazing woman. We have beautiful kids and are really happy together. The issue, however, is my in-laws. We are complete opposites in personality and certain views.

I know everyone has different opinions and I respect that. The problem is, they belittle my opinions, job, hobbies and habits. I have been with my wife since high school, and they have never liked me. Lately, the problems have gotten worse.

I am educated, have a good job and take care of my family. But every chance my in-laws get, they make negative comments to me, and in front of others. My friends have called them beyond cruel. My feelings are constantly hurt, and I have begun to feel negatively about myself. My wife doesn't see a problem and says that's just how they are.

I have stood up for myself. When I did, my father-in-law proceeded to threaten me with physical violence. It is worse when they drink, which is usually when we see them, but the insults are there regardless. I am scared my kids will see how they treat me and think it is OK to do so. I used to be a confident man who would defend myself, but because they are family, I usually take it.

I am at my breaking point, and my marriage is beginning to suffer because my wife refuses to support me. She also keeps inviting us to their house for gatherings. I tell her I don't want to go, but she says to let things go. I don't know how. Please help.

STRESSED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR STRESSED: I fail to see how a couple can be happy under these circumstances. That a wife would tolerate her parents' abuse of her husband is shameful. However, that does not mean you must allow it to continue. Dig deep and resurrect the confident man you once were. Tell your wife you will no longer visit the in-laws unless you receive an apology from them and they agree to remain sober while you're there. And because you have reason to believe you'll be disrespected in front of your children—or it will happen behind your back—make other plans for them and for yourself while your wife visits her folks.

DEAR ABBY: Maybe I am wrong to feel the way I feel. My 90-year-old mother passed away a month ago. My sister emailed me to tell me the awful news. I almost fainted when I read it. I can't believe it was acceptable to notify me that way. At the funeral, my sister also had the pastor read what she wrote about our mom, and never acknowledged me in her writing or asked if I wanted to write something to be read. What is going on here? None of this behavior seems right to me.

DEVASTATED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR DEVASTATED: Please accept my deepest sympathy for the loss of your mother. What your sister did was not proper. I can only conclude that you and your sister are not close, and that she may harbor some anger or resentment toward you that she demonstrated at a most inappropriate time.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

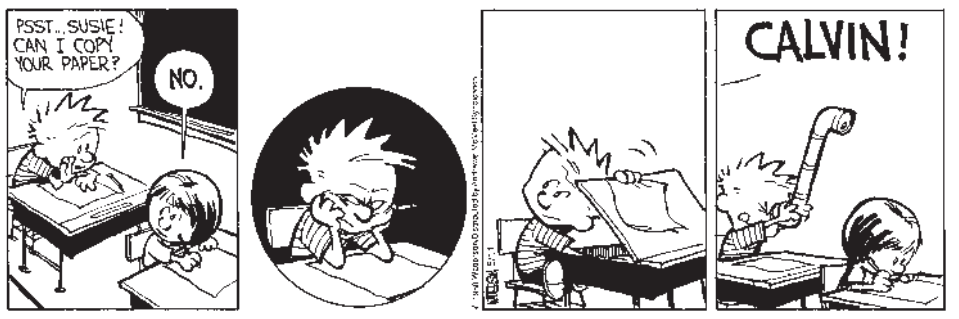
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

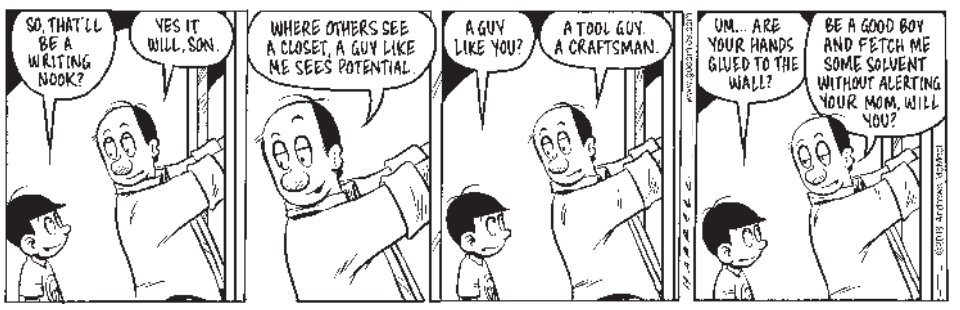


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

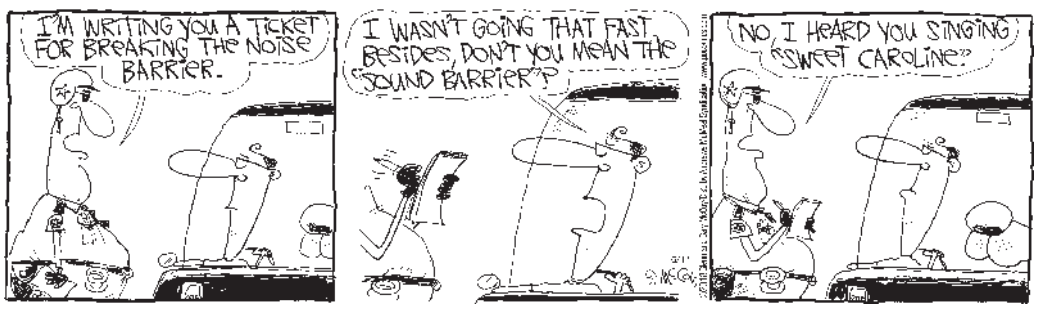
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, THAT'LL BE A WRITING NOOK?
YES IT WILL, SON.
WHERE OTHERS SEE A CLOSET, A GUY LIKE ME SEES POTENTIAL
A GUY LIKE YOU?
A TOOL GUY. A CRAFTSMAN.
UM... ARE YOUR HANDS GLUED TO THE WALL?
BE A GOOD BOY AND FETCH ME SOME SOLVENT WITHOUT ALERTING YOUR MOM, WILL YOU?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'M WRITING YOU A TICKET FOR BREAKING THE NOISE BARRIER.
I WASN'T GOING THAT FAST. BESIDES, DON'T YOU MEAN THE SOUND BARRIER?
NO, I HEARD YOU SINGING "SWEET CAROLINE?"

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Parlor pieces
6 Atlas page
9 Nev. neighbor
12 Chaplin persona
13 Hockey surface
14 Altar constellation
15 Daisy Mae's guy
16 Sacred places
18 New Orleans cuisine
20 Evening, in an ad
21 4, on a phone
23 — out a living
24 Say
25 Borscht base
27 Maxim
29 Tempura choice
31 Piercing
35 Winner's gesture
37 Uppity sort
38 "Evita" surname
41 Not 'neath
43 ICU workers
44 And others (Lat.)
45 Car-repair shop
47 Wither
49 Foolish
52 Sock part
53 Blackbird
54 "— bleu!"
55 Old map letters
56 Casual shirt
57 Patriot Allen

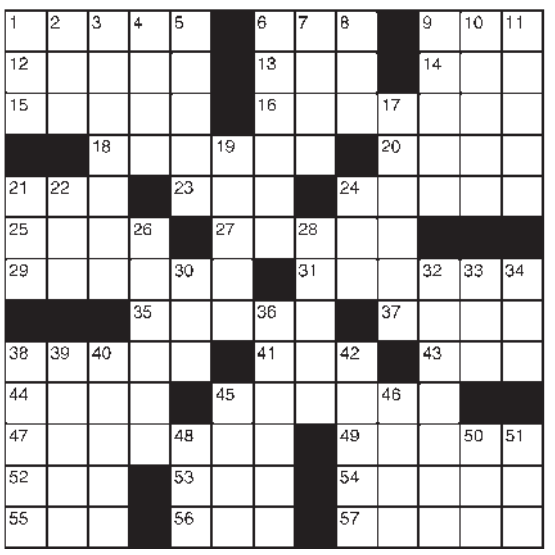
DOWN

1 Depot (Abbr.)
2 Sphere
3 More posh
4 From the U.S.
5 Shopping binge
6 Deceived
7 Dull pain
8 Capita lead-in
9 "Be quiet!"
10 Mountain crest
11 Surgical beam
17 Buries
19 Giraffe's kin
21 "Pygmalion" monogram
22 Sneaky laugh
24 "Yecch!"
26 Villa d'Este city
28 "Elf" actor Ed
30 AOL rival
32 Close at hand
33 Chaney of horror films
34 Scale abbr.
36 Net defender in hockey
38 Nuisances
39 Community spirit
40 Harder to find
42 Lift
45 Hereditary unit
46 Pesky insect
48 Cistern
50 Gun lobby org.
51 Still, in verse

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	N	O	B		A	I	F		A	B	E	T
F	A	S	E		S	F	I		S	J	M	O
R		L	I		B	O	B		T	R	I	G
B	L	O	U	S	E		S	I	E	R	R	A
			G	I	S			C	R	I		
M	A	M	A		T	A	L	E	N	T	E	D
A	G	E			O	N	O			O	L	E
C	O	M	P	O	S	T	S		A	S	K	S
		F	I	N				A	R	M		
D	A	N	C	E	S		I	F	A	D	E	D
F	C	T	O		A	G	E		Z	I	P	I
A	I	O	T		G	O	O		O	V	A	I
F	U	S	S		F	D	S		N	F	I	I

Yesterday's answer 5-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Holly Valance, 35; Amanda Freitag, 46; Frances Fisher, 66; Eric Burdon, 77.

Happy Birthday: Put your energy into something that moves you. Helping others will create new opportunities that will give you a sense of belonging and encourage you to immerse yourself in something you not only enjoy but that also brings you gratification, turning this into an amazing year. Strive for happiness and make good memories with the people you love. Your numbers are 6, 13, 26, 29, 31, 44, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Look before you leap. Make sure you are fully prepared before you make a change that can affect your position or your status. Discuss your plans with those who will be affected by the choices you make. Romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An energetic approach to work and your relationships with your peers will ensure you finish what you start. Be proud of your accomplishments and share your joy with the people who help make your life better. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't give up on someone you are worried about or are trying to help. If you listen without making judgment or criticism, you will build a strong bond that will include having a positive influence on whomever you are dealing with. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Turn your talents into good fortune. Whether you use your attributes to help others or to form a better relationship with someone you care about, you can improve your life and your future. Give, and you will get back. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You are overdue for a change. Whether it's at work, visiting an unfamiliar place or hanging out with someone new, you will feel energized and able to incorporate something from the past with the present in order to build a better future. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Stop fretting and focus on ways to make your life better. Getting together with good friends or family will give you insight into what you can do to enhance your life. An older relative will offer an interesting, unusual suggestion. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Accept the inevitable and keep moving forward. You cannot change others or expect anyone to sacrifice for you, but you can make choices that will bring you greater joy. Discuss your thoughts and intentions, and start making plans. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Live and learn. Listen to what others have to say; the experience they have will be encouraging. Put your own unique spin on a suggestion someone offers and turn it into a reality. It's OK to be different. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Socialize, host an event or make personal alterations that will make you feel vibrant. A new look will lift your spirits and bring compliments from someone who truly matters to you. Romance will encourage a better relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't let anger take over if someone doesn't want to do things your way. It's OK to do your own thing and to create your own happiness. Take the initiative to elaborate on something you've wanted to do for some time. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Focus on family projects that will bring you closer to the ones you love. A hobby you enjoy can be turned into a lucrative venture if you use social media to promote what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put more onus on taking better care of your health. Don't let someone who has bad habits convince you to take part in something that could harm you. Personal gain will come your way if you enforce discipline and a fitness routine. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, trailblazing and disciplined. You are encouraging and imaginative.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5		6	4			
3		4	9			1		
2					3	7		
	5				7			
		8				3		
			6				5	
		6	2					1
		2			9	6		3
			5	7		2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	8	4	2	9	6	5	1	7
2	9	5	1	4	7	8	3	6
6	7	1	8	5	3	9	2	4
1	4	6	7	2	5	3	9	8
7	5	9	4	3	8	2	6	1
8	2	3	6	1	9	4	7	5
9	1	8	5	7	2	6	4	3
5	3	7	9	6	4	1	8	2
4	6	2	3	8	1	7	5	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

HALOTHERAPY Solution: 6 letters

N	L	C	B	R	O	S	B	A	I	R	W	A	Y	I
E	A	O	L	S	L	A	T	S	Y	R	C	N	E	T
G	R	Y	S	E	I	L	I	U	Q	N	A	R	T	A
Y	E	R	A	O	A	I	N	F	U	S	E	R	A	E
X	N	D	N	L	R	N	H	A	C	L	G	E	N	S
O	I	S	P	A	A	E	S	W	L	A	A	L	E	T
C	M	C	I	S	U	M	A	I	I	V	S	A	V	H
A	H	O	L	I	S	T	I	C	N	A	S	X	U	E
V	A	P	O	R	E	B	H	H	I	G	A	A	J	T
E	K	S	M	R	O	I	O	P	C	E	M	T	E	I
R	R	L	M	D	L	B	L	O	U	Z	L	I	R	C
O	A	I	Y	D	E	C	A	F	T	R	O	O	M	S
C	D	O	R	D	B	R	E	A	T	H	I	N	G	N
K	E	E	S	K	I	N	H	T	L	A	S	F	E	U
E	N	E	R	G	Y	F	I	X	O	T	E	D	Y	R

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Absorb, Aerosol, Aesthetics, Airway, Beds, Body, Booths, Breathing, Calm, Cave, Children, Cleansing, Clinic, Crystals, Dark, Detoxify, Dim, Dry, Energy, Face, Heal, Himalayan, Holistic, Infuse, Ions, Lavage, Massage, Mineral, Music, Oils, Oxygen, Purify, Rejuvenate, Relaxation, Rock, Rooms, Runs, Salt, Seat, Skin, Spa, Tranquil, Vapor, Water, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Black Holes

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
INVESTIGATOR

Opening Date: 04/18/18 Closing Date: 05/18/18
POSITION: Investigator EXAMINATION NO. OPA-18-001

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai. Completed employment application form and pertinent documents must be submitted at the Office of the Public Auditor.

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: mail@opacnmi.com
Phone: (670) 322-6481

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For more information
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Emily Faustino at
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Extension 2249

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Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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mdotts@dottslaw.law

Attorney for Administrator
Nicanor F. Norita

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VISITACION RANGAMAR FLORES, Deceased.

Civil Action No.: 03-0228D

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRS

TO: ALL HEIRS OF VISITACION RANGAMAR FLORES, DECEASED

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Determination of Heirs for the ESTATE OF VISTACION RANGAMAR FLORES (DECEASED) was filed in the above-entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter. The hearing would normally be held in the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. However, due to issues with the Court House the hearing will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, at **9:00 a.m., on May 24, 2018.**

You may obtain a copy of the Petition from the Administrator's counsel during normal business hours. You may also obtain a copy from the Court. If you believe you are an heir, and if you are not listed on the Petition, it is very important for you to appear at the hearing and assert your claim as an heir.

Dated this 4th day of May, 2018.

Michael W. Dotts
Counsel for Administrator

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!!

Opening Date: 05/09/18 **Closing Date: 05/30/18**

JVA#18-003: **Procurement Officer**
Location: Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan

Interested persons may contact the
Marianas Visitors Authority Office at (670) 664-3200/01
or visit www.mymarianas.com for more details.

GPPC, INC.
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) STEEL WORKER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members. Verify vertical and horizontal alignment of structural steel members, using plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels. Cut, bend, or weld steel pieces, using metal shears, torches, or welding equipment. Erect metal or precast concrete components for structures, such as buildings, bridges, dams, towers, storage tanks, fences, or highway guard rails. Force structural steel members into final positions, using turnbuckles, crowbars, jacks, or hand tools. Pull, push, or pry structural steel members into approximate positions for bolting into place. Travel may be necessary to the other islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which include Saipan, Tinian & Rota, to perform work on different construction projects.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 48 months experience in Construction; and
- Knowledge in using welding machine and power tools.

Interested individuals please send your resume
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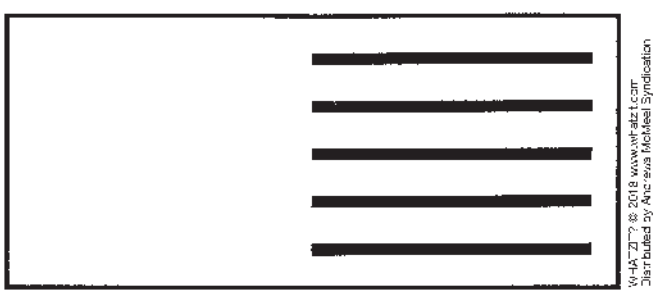

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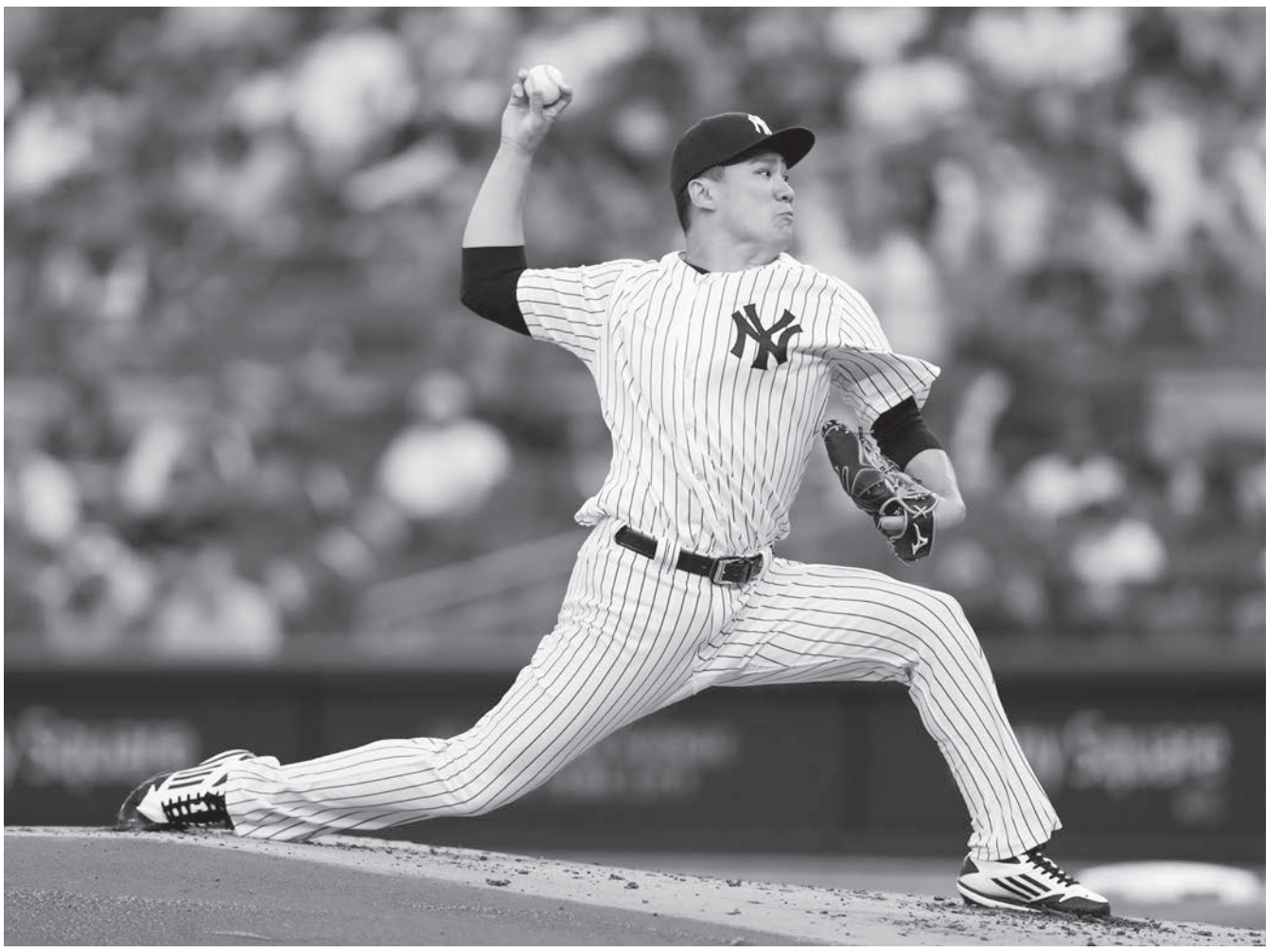
Yankees rally past Red Sox to complete sweep

NEW YORK (AP)—Brett Gardner capped a slump-busting performance with a go-ahead, two-run triple off Craig Kimbrel in the eighth inning, Aaron Judge followed with a homer and the New York Yankees rallied to beat the Boston Red Sox 9-6 Wednesday night for their 17th victory in 18 games.

Kimbrel entered with two on and one out to face Gardner seeking the first five-out save of his career. Gardner drilled a full-count pitch into left-center field, well over the head of center fielder Mookie Betts, who was playing shallow. Neil Walker scored easily from third and rookie Gleyber Torres raced from first



New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka delivers during the first inning of the team's baseball game against the Boston Red Sox in New York, Wednesday, May 9, 2018. AP

Astros 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Gerrit Cole struck out nine to raise his major league-leading total to 86, and the Houston Astros beat the Oakland Athletics 4-1 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Max Stassi and Derek Fisher hit consecutive home runs with two outs in the seventh off Daniel Mengden (2-4) for a 2-1 lead.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 3

In Los Angeles, Kyle Farmer's sacrifice fly scored the go-ahead run in a sixth inning that included mistakes by Arizona's bullpen and helped Los Angeles beat the NL West leaders.

The scuffling Dodgers improved to 4-8 against their division rivals this season.

Phillies 11, Giants 3

In Philadelphia, Carlos Santana had three hits and five RBI, Nick Pivetta struck out seven in five scoreless innings and Philadelphia improved to 20-11 since a 1-4 start.

Pivetta (2-2) bounced back from an awful start against the Nationals in which he lasted only one inning and allowed six runs.

Blue Jays 5, Mariners 2

In Toronto, Yangervis Solarte hit a game-tying double in the eighth inning and Justin Smoak followed with a go-ahead double as Toronto rallied to beat Seattle.

Toronto started the eighth with five straight hits off Mariners reliever Juan Nicasio (1-1) .

Braves 5, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Nick Markakis hit a three-run homer and Atlanta set a franchise record for consecutive shutout innings on the road.

Wilson Ramos' two-run single with two outs in the eighth ended a string of 34 straight shutout innings for the Braves.

Reds 2, Mets 1, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, the New York Mets wasted a first-inning rally by batting out of turn, and Adam Duvall led off the 10th with a homer to win it for Cincinnati.

Duvall connected for his first career game-ending homer, a drive off A.J. Ramos (1-2).

Orioles 5, Royals 3

In Baltimore, Mark Trumbo delivered a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning, Chris Davis homered and Baltimore ended a seven-game losing streak.

Jonathan Schoop had two hits and scored twice for the Orioles.

Indians 6, Brewers 2

In Milwaukee, Carlos Carrasco struck out 14 in a complete game and Tyler Naquin and Francisco Lindor homered for Cleveland.

Carrasco (5-1) gave up five hits, walked one and threw 117 pitches in his second complete game this season.

Cubs 13, Marlins 4

In Chicago, Kris Bryant hit his 100th career homer, Anthony Rizzo and Addison Russell connected in an eight-run third inning, and Chicago routed Miami.

Rizzo also had a pair of doubles and finished with five RBI as the Cubs outscored the Marlins 31-9 in a three-game sweep.

Angels 8, Rockies 0

In Denverm Rene Rivera homered with a sore right hand, Jaime Barria threw efficiently into the sixth inning and the Angels ended Colorado's six-game winning streak.

Barria (3-1) allowed five hits and struck out seven over 5 1/3 innings.

Rangers 5, Tigers 4

In Arlington, Nomar Mazara led off the 10th inning with his second homer of the game, giving Texas its first winning home series this season.

Mazara pulled a 1-0 pitch into the right field seats off Warwick Saupold (1-1).

Pirates 6, White Sox 5

In Chicago, Colin Moran hit a two-run homer that capped a four-run rally against Nate Jones in the ninth inning, and Pittsburgh sent the White Sox to their fifth straight loss.

Starling Marte and Josh Bell singled off Jones (2-1), Elias Diaz had a two-run double and Moran homered.

Padres 2, Nationals 1

In San Diego, Matt Szczur hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning and San Diego's bullpen pitched four scoreless innings against Washington.

Kirby Yates pitched a perfect eighth, and Brad Hand got three outs for his 10th save.

Panthers bidder wants Manning to be part-owner

CHARLOTTE—Charleston billionaire Ben Navarro has reached out to two-time Super Bowl winner Peyton Manning about joining his ownership group that is bidding on the Carolina Panthers, according to two sources with knowledge of the discussions.

Manning is still considering Navarro's offer to become a limited partner, according to the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the Panthers' sale.

Attempts to reach Manning and Navarro were unsuccessful Wednesday.

Manning, the former Indianapolis and Denver quarterback who won a record five MVPs, retired in 2016 after beating the Panthers in Super Bowl 50.

Manning has had multiple opportunities within or around the NFL since he retired two years ago.

Manning was reportedly approached by the Cleveland Browns last fall about a possible role in their front office, although Browns owner Jimmy Haslam told The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer he never offered Manning a position.

Manning, who lives in Denver, also passed on two high-profile broadcast jobs in recent months.

ESPN and Fox were each willing to pay Manning $10 million a year to serve as an analyst for "Monday Night Football" and "Thursday Night Football," respectively.

It's unclear what changes could be made in the Panthers' front office after the transition of ownership. The position of president has been vacant since Danny Morrison resigned more than a year ago.

Manning, 42, remains one of the most marketable figures among current and former NFL players.

According to Forbes, Manning retired with $249 million in career football earnings and $400 million in total earnings, including endorsements. His corporate partners include Nike, Buick, DirecTV, Gatorade, Nationwide and Papa John's, according to Forbes.

Navarro is one of four known bidders on the Panthers, who went on the market in January following an explosive Sports Illustrated report that detailed allegations of sexual and racial misconduct by owner and founder Jerry Richardson.

Navarro, the CEO of Sherman Financial Group, is thought to be the leading bidder at $2.6 billion, according to the New York Times. That would represent a record sale amount for a U.S. professional sports franchise.

The other bidders include hedge fund manager and Pittsburgh Steelers part-owner David Tepper; Canadian steel company CEO Alan Kestenbaum; and e-commerce entrepreneur Michael Rubin.

Bloomberg has reported that Rubin dropped out when bids exceeded $2.5 billion, but sources have told the Observer that he remains interested at the right price.

NFL officials had hoped owners could vote to approve the Panthers' new owner at their spring meeting in Atlanta on May 21-23. But it's unclear whether that is still a realistic timetable.

Germany captain Manuel Neuer running out of time for World Cup

MUNICH (AP)—Germany captain Manuel Neuer will not play in Bayern Munich's final Bundesliga game, putting his World Cup participation in doubt after the goalkeeper missed most of the season with a hairline fracture in his left foot.

Neuer, who hasn't played since September after being injured in training, is running out of time to prove his fitness for this summer's tournament in Russia.

Bayern coach Jupp Heynckes said Wednesday that Neuer will not be included in the squad for the final league game against Stuttgart.

Media reports suggested Heynckes said Neuer wouldn't play at all for Bayern this season, but the club issued a statement which quoted the coach as saying, "I didn't say that. The fact is Manuel is not yet in the squad for the last home game against Stuttgart on Saturday. For the cup final, however, the decision is still open."

Bayern plays Eintracht Frankfurt in the German Cup final on May 19.

The 32-year-old Neuer was initially due to return in January but his rehabilitation is taking longer than expected due to the risk of a relapse. A repeat of the injury could threaten his career.

Germany coach Joachim Loew is due to name his World Cup squad on May 15 with the biggest question centering on Neuer's likely inclusion.

Neuer has said, "I don't think it's imaginable without any match practice."

Germany's first game is against Mexico on June 17 in Moscow.

Celtics make East finals after dramatic Game 5 win

AP

Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart, right, drives past Philadelphia 76ers guard Marco Belinelli during the first quarter of Game 5 of an NBA basketball playoff series in Boston, Wednesday, May 9, 2018.

BOSTON (AP)—With 2.4 seconds left and the Boston Celtics leading by two, Marcus Smart had a chance to clinch Game 5 of the Eastern Conference semifinals and eliminate Philadelphia by making a pair of free throws.

He missed the first.

He could have made things more difficult for the 76ers by missing the second one on purpose, and forcing them to go the length of the court with the clock running. He chucked it against the rim; it went in.

That gave the 76ers a chance to win with a desperation 3-pointer. The full-court inbounds pass went into the left corner, and who was there to intercept it, heaving it back into the air to run out the clock?

To the surprise of no one in a Celtics uniform, it was Smart.

"That's a Marcus Smart sequence. That just describes him so well," guard Jaylen Brown said after Boston beat Philadelphia 114-112 on Wednesday night to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year. "If it came down to one guy coming up with it, everybody's got their money on Smart."

Jayson Tatum scored 25 points, Brown had 24 and Terry Rozier scored 17, sinking a pair of free throws to make it a four-point game with 9.8 seconds left after forcing Joel Embiid's turnover. Al Horford added 15 points and eight rebounds for Boston.

The Celtics will play Cleveland in the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year. Game 1 is Sunday in Boston. It's the Celtics' first back-to-back trips to the conference finals since making it five straight times in the original Big Three era from 1984-88.

"When you get here, you're flattered by the thought of the Boston Celtics," coach Brad Stevens said. "You realize if you're going to break records here, you're going to break bad ones. Because none of the good ones are reachable."

Embiid had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers, Dario Saric had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and Ben Simmons added 18 points, eight rebounds and six assists. The 76ers rode The Process back into the playoffs for the first time since 2012, winning 20 out of 21 games before Boston beat them three straight times to open the conference semifinals.

"The Process is never going to end," Embiid said. "This is a process to get to the playoffs, we did it. This was a process to get to the conference finals, we didn't. Next year, that's our goal."

In a game that featured 21 lead changes—the most in the playoffs this year—the Celtics scored eight straight points in the final 1:37, taking the lead on Tatum's layup with 23 seconds left. Embiid had a chance to tie it but he missed a heavily contested layup, failed to tip it back in and then grabbed that rebound, too.

Rozier knocked the ball out of his hands, off his leg and out of bounds with 10.8 seconds left.

"Just a championship play, that's all," said Rozier, who made a pair of free throws to make it 113-109—eight straight points for Boston.

J.J. Reddick's 3-pointer cut the deficit to one, and then it was Smart's turn. Coming off the bench, he had 14 points, six rebounds, six assists and three steals.

"He's made for this," Stevens said. "He's made for these moments. We can go through the stat line all you want, but when your season's on the line and you need to do really hard things, he can do really hard things."

Meanwhile, Stevens has never put much stock in coach of the year awards.

So predictably, the news earlier Wednesday that he didn't receive a single vote for this season's National Basketball Coaches Association's trophy, which went to Toronto's Dwane Casey, didn't faze him either.

"The way that thing works is you get one vote...I looked at the sheet and there's no way that I would have voted for me over any of the other 29 people," Stevens said. "The guy that should have won got it."

Pelicans, Davis enter offseason encouraged, yet unsatisfied

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Anthony Davis wasn't willing to call the New Orleans Pelicans' season a success.

Not that Davis dismissed the determination, grit and growing chemistry the Pelicans showed in the way they adjusted to a season-ending injury to fellow All-Star DeMarcus Cousins.

New Orleans exceeded expectations by getting to the postseason and sweeping third-seeded Portland . Then came a second-round matchup with defending champion Golden State, and the Pelicans were reminded why bringing back a player of Cousins' caliber could be crucial to going farther next season. The Warriors needed only five games to end New Orleans' season.

"Any time you don't win a championship, I don't see how it could be successful," Davis said. "We can take a lot of positive things from the season. Of course, one of our main guys went out and everybody doubted us. Everybody counted us out and we were able to keep fighting, keep pushing as a unit and able to come this far."

This offseason could go a long way in determining if they go any farther.

Not only is Cousins a free agent, but so is assists maestro Rajon Rondo . Further complicating matters is that Cousins' injury—a torn Achilles—has been a historically difficult one from which to come back. So the Pelicans' faith could be tested if Cousins declines to take less than the maximum he can get under the NBA's current collective bargaining agreement.

Also, Rondo and Cousins are friends. Bringing back one could raise the prospects of keeping the other.

Rondo, who averaged 10.3 points, 12.2 assists and 7.6 rebounds in the postseason, asserted that bringing back Cousin will be "very important."

Warriors-Rockets is the series everyone wanted

HOUSTON (AP)—The buildup for this series truly began in February, with some pointed comments from Golden State's Draymond Green.

Or in October, when Houston won at Golden State on ring night.

Or in June, when the Rockets landed Chris Paul.

Whenever it started, however it started, it's clear that this is the series that the NBA-watching world wanted. Western Conference finals, Golden State versus Houston, Game 1 on Monday on the Rockets' home floor. Series winner to the NBA Finals, series loser will undoubtedly feel like they let a championship ring slip away.

"They got us. We got them," Green said. "Got to go out there and play. We'll see who better."

After more than 10 months of playing, posturing and some pontificating, it really is that simple.

This Rockets team was assembled—the key being the trade for Paul last summer—with hopes of unseating the reigning champion Warriors from their perch atop the NBA. So far, so good. Houston set a franchise record with 65 wins in the regular season, went 2-1 against the Warriors in games that were hyped at the time though seem meaningless now, and has the likely MVP in James Harden.

But how this Houston season will be remembered hinges largely on the outcome of this series.

"Everybody at the beginning of the year thinks they've got a chance to be here," Houston's P.J. Tucker said. "Everybody talks about winning. Everybody talks about fighting for a championship. ... We really believed it. We're really fighting to get there. This is not a game. Everybody takes their job serious."

He's right on all counts, particularly on the talking.

And the talking will most definitely continue over the next few days. With five full off days between the Warriors' and Rockets' respective second-round clinchers on Tuesday and Game 1 of their series, a lot of people will be saying a lot of somethings.

"I think it's going to be a great series," said New Orleans coach Alvin Gentry, whose Pelicans fell in five games to the Warriors in the West semifinals. "I think it will be very entertaining. I think the people will have a great time watching that series, because you have great players out there. ... I'm looking forward to it."

He's hardly alone.

For as great as LeBron James has been, again, the West matchup is going to overshadow the East finals between Cleveland and either Boston or Philadelphia. That's no disrespect to the East; that's just reality given the seasons that the Warriors and Rockets have had, and the collision course that seemed so inevitable for either to avoid.

"The whole world's been waiting for this matchup," Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal said in his role as an analyst Tuesday night on TNT.

The three Warriors-Rockets games were about as anticipated as any in the regular season: Golden State lost two of the three, and the final combined score of those matchups was Warriors 353, Rockets 352.

"That was so long ago," Warriors forward Kevin Durant said. "I think both teams are different and playing better. So you know, I try not to look at those games but we kind of know, they know what we do and they know what we do."

It's the second time in four years that Houston and Golden State have met in the West finals; the Warriors ousted the Rockets in five games in 2015 on their way to the NBA title. Golden State was the No. 1 seed that year, Houston was No. 2. The seeds are flipped this time, after Houston finished the regular season with the league's best record.

GSM rips Outlaws; Titanium prevails

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Go See Mark pounced on the Outlaws, 31-6, while Titanium outclassed the Ballistics, 10-8, in the first two matches in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League this week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Titanium earned the win last Monday night, surviving Ballistics' rally at the top of the ninth inning. Ahead at 10-6, going into the top of the ninth, Titanium was threatened by the Ballistics after the latter's first two batters reached off the former's errors with two outs and a runner on second. Closer Brian Camacho, who came in for Bill Camacho at the start of the ninth inning, got the two outs after fanning Adolpho Roppul and Jay Camacho, and then picked up a grounded from Keoni Lizama and threw to first baseman Joe Palacios for the third out to end the match.

Bill Camacho threw a no-hitter in the first three innings to help Titanium take a 5-0 lead. Designated hitter Glen Camacho scored Titanium's first run in the second inning off the Ballistics' error and then blasted a two-run double in the team's four-run bottom of the third. Jerald Cabrera had an RBI double, while Juan Tenorio hit an RBI single in the third inning for Titanium.

Despite a 5-0 advantage, Titanium failed to pull away and saw its lead down to one, 7-6, after the Ballistics combined for five runs in the fourth and fifth and added one more at the top of the eighth. A three-run bottom of the eighth, however, gave Titanium more breathing room and it hung on to keep the win.

In last Tuesday's one-sided game, GSM was so unforgiving that after scoring in each of the first six inning, it went for the kill in the seventh by firing 16 runs. Seven players in GSM's top of the order reached home twice in that top of the seventh-inning barrage. Jerome Delos Santos and Roy Celis were among them and added two RBIs each, while the rest of GSM's runs were posted off the Outlaws' sloppy defensive plays.

Besides its 16 runs in the seventh inning, another highlight of GSM's demolition of the Outlaws was Manny Sablan's two-run homer at the top of the fifth.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Titanium player, right, and Ballistics runner check the field before making their move during their game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Monday the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Hernandez, Pagarao win in PBA Classified tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Alan Hernandez and Gloria Pagarao clinched the championship in their respective divisions in the Budweiser-sponsored PBA Classified Bowling Tournament held late last month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Hernandez won Class B after pulling off an upset over Diana Camacho in the stepladder finals, while Pagarao took the Class C after following a victory against Lala Taitano.

Pagarao was the top finisher in the six-game qualifying roll-off after collecting 936 pinfalls and averaging 156. She automatically marched into the finals and was joined in the stepladder by Jimmy De Guzman and Taitano. De Guzman placed second in the qualifier after gaining 933 pins and averaging 155, while Taitano was ranked third with her 927 (154.50 average).

De Guzman and Taitano went on to dispute the second finals berth in the stepladder for the right to face Pagarao in the finals. Taitano then set an all-female finale in Class C after beating De Guzman, 187-178. In the finals, Taitano had to beat Pagarao twice to steal the title, but the latter finished off her opponents early after recording a 166-136 victory in Game 1.

In the Class B finals, Hernandez stunned top-ranked Diana Camacho to win the division title. Hernandez won Game 1, 157-146, to force the rubber and completed the upset with a 180-148 triumph in Game 2.

Diana Camacho made it to the finals automatically after registering a field-best 1,154 pinfalls in the six-game qualifying roll-off. Janice Camacho finished second after posting 1,106, while Hernandez rounded out the Top 3 after logging 1,010. Hernandez went on to beat Janice Camacho in the playoff game, 169-155, to set up a finals showdown against Diana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gloria Pagarao is flanked by runners-up Lala Taitano, left, and Jimmy De Guzman during the awards ceremony for the Class C division of the PBA Classified Bowling Tournament held late last month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Diana Camacho, Alan Hernandez, and Janice Camacho pose with their trophies during the awards ceremony for the Class B division of the PBA Classified Bowling Tournament held late last month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

KES

From Page 40

snatched the gold and silver medals, while Koblerville had another third place finish, courtesy of Brinel Quitugua (21.01).

Meanwhile, the All Schools meet scheduled four events in yesterday's competition. First up was the 800m run for all age groups, followed by shot put (for middle and high school), 200m run, and discus throw.

Today, the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics will have the 400m run, long jump, 100m run, and 4x100m relay. Then for the last day of the annual tournament, students will compete in the 3,000m run, 4x400m relay, and mixed medley relay.

BRAVES

From Page 40

batters in the second and third inning and fanned two each in the first and fourth.

The Falcons pitcher also went 2-for-2 at bat and had an RBI in the first inning where his team collected 11 runs to take early control of the match. Catcher Noah Aguon was also 2-for-2 at the top of the first and scored two runs and two RBIs. Second baseman Achilles Evangelista delivered two RBIs, too in that pivotal inning and added three runs off his 3-for-4 performance at the plate.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Fielders 7, Braves 6

Over at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, the Fielders nipped the Braves, 7-6.

Anthony Dizon closed out for the Fielders and gave up no hits in the 2.1 innings he pitched to help his team keep the shaky lead. Dizon came in for relief pitcher Henry Fleming late at the bottom of the fifth inning and started his duty by striking out Ben Agulto for the third out, stranding Braves runners at second and first.

Two Braves runners were also stuck at third and second in the sixth inning when Dizon struck out Boss Alvarez. The Fielders pitcher early fanned leadoff batter R.J. Igitol, while shortstop Dennis Cabrera caught a fly from Vic Camacho for the second out in the penultimate inning. Then at the bottom of the last, Dizon struck out leadoff batter Mingko Taimanao and the Fielders went on to finish the game when Cabrera caught another fly and Austin Sanchez and Donovan Deleon Guerrero teamed up for a 5-3 putout play.

Trexon Lieto went 2-for-4 for the Fielders and scored two runs, while Fleming made two RBIs.

Falcons 12, Comets 1

In the other game in the division last weekend, the Falcons eased past the Comets.

Aven Evangelista pitched five innings for the Falcons and threw a one-hitter with no walks.

The Comets scored their lone run at the bottom of the sixth inning after Kiana Aldan singled and drove in leadoff batter Richard Blas.

Pedro Maratita hit 3-for-4 for the Falcons and scored three runs. Arby Yaguel was only 2-for-4, but delivered two RBIs, while Evangelista added three runs and one RBI despite going 1-for-5 at the plate.

GCA

From Page 40

allowing the Eagles to tie the match anew.

The seesaw battle continued with MCS-1 moving up, 25-24, after GCA made three hits and could not return the ball. Then Villagomez went for another spike, but faltered again, for the last deadlock in the exciting second set, 25-all.

Eunseo Choi attempted to bring the lead back to the Lady Knights, but her spike was also way too strong with the ball going over the backline. Now ahead, 26-25, GCA had Karena Torres serving and her shot headed across the right sideline with Choi receiving it, but the latter's return went over the sideline, giving the Eagles the close win and ending the Lady Knights' bid for a three-peat.

MCS-1 failed to advance to the finals despite shuffling its players in all two sets, while GCA got the important win after sticking with its key players—Torres, Dilse, Dalusong, Anna Nunez, Jasmine Phan, and Sunny Woo.

Meanwhile, the boys title match between MCS and SIS will also take place today and will be played after the girls finale.

Easy victory for CT Law NMI Rollers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CT Law NMI Rollers coasted past the 670 Sonics XVI, 67-39, during the lone game played in the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Angelo Factor top-scored for CT Law NMI Rollers after registering 18 points, while Sunjoon Tenorio, Jelbert Quitugua, and A.J. Hudkins backed the former up. Tenorio added 13 markers, while Quitugua and Hudkins contributed 9 and 7 points, respectively.

Factor dropped 12 of his total points in the first quarter to give the CT Law NMI Rollers a 20-6 advantage. The lead ballooned in the ensuing periods with other CT Law NMI Rollers players stepping up and outgunning the 670 Sonics XVI.

Quitugua made 7 markers in the second quarter to help the CT Law NMI Rollers keep the double-digit advantage at the break, 33-18. Then in the third canto, it was Tenorio's turn to lead the CT Law NMI Rollers' offense with his 8 markers handing his squad a 17-point margin, 50-33. For the final canto, Hudkins delivered the killer blows, recording all his points in that frame to complete the CT Law NMI Rollers' domination of the 670 Sonics XVI.

Aldrin Dancel paced the 670 Sonics XVI with his 11 points.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CT Law NMI Rollers' A.J. Hudkins goes up for an uncontested shot against the 670 Sonics XVI during their boys U18 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

670 Sonics XVII 47, Chinatown Titans 40

Jeph Ejercito and Christian Bravo hit clutch baskets to lift the 670 Sonics XVII past the Chinatown Titans in last Monday's match.

Ejercito scored the 670 Sonics XVII's last two field goals, while Bravo nailed three free throws down the homestretch. Ejercito finished the game with 11 points.

The 670 Sonics XVII led right from the get-go, but could not pull away, as the Titans remained persistent, mounting a comeback in each quarter.

NMI Rollers 49, Kagman Sparks 28

The NMI Rollers routed Kagman Sparks in last Friday's match.

Jun Agulto powered the NMI Rollers to the lopsided win after firing 22 points. He drilled the NMI Rollers' first 8 markers and wrapped up the opening canto with 10 points for their 16-2 advantage.

The NMI Rollers gunner then slowed down in the middle quarters, but finished what he started, as he tallied 8 points in the final canto for their 21-point winning margin.

Stalemate in Division B of Dove women's league

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Matansa Football Club player, right, dribbles away from her TanHoldings FC defender during an earlier game in the Masters division of the2018 Dove Spring Women's League at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field.

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REPORTER

Two matches in the Division B of the 2018 Dove Spring Women's League ended in draws, leaving the leading MP United Football Club-1 the only team to win in last weekend's triple-header.

TanHoldings and MY Pros set the tone for the weekend when they engaged in a draw, 3-3, in the curtain-raiser at the Chacha Oceanview Middle School Field. Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez scored a pair of goals for TanHoldings, while Stephanie Flores added one. Manami Manglona duplicated Chavez's feat for MY Pros, while Mel Borja tallied the other goal for the squad.

In the second game at the Chacha pitch, MP United-2 and Shirley's FC played to a scoreless draw. Over at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field last Saturday, MP United-1 shut down MP United-2 in a make-up match, 3-0.

Julie Hall scored two goals for MP United-1, while Andrea Ranjo chipped in one.

MP United-1 now has a 4-1-1 win-draw-loss record to lead MY Pros (3-1-1), Paire (2-1-2), MP United-2 (1-2-3), TanHoldings (1-1-2), and Shirley's (0-2-2).

In Division A, Kanoa-1 is still on top following a 5-2 triumph over Shirley's last week at the TSL Sports Complex's artificial turf.

Kanoa-1, which improved to a 5-1-0 mark, drew four goals from Paulynn Joyce and one from Sharmaine Francisco. Katrina Costales delivered the brace for Shirley's, which is ranked No. 4 after posting a 1-0-5 record. Paire (4-0-2), Kanoa-2 (2-1-2), and TanHoldings (1-0-4) complete the team standings.

Paire notched its fourth win after blanking TanHoldings in the other game in the division last week, 11-0. Guine Borja lifted Paire to the lopsided victory after registering five goals, while Jerlyn Castrillo contributed three, and Gillian Villagomez and Anela Duenas chipped in two and one, respectively.

Meanwhile, in the Masters division, Matansa prevailed against Topnotch, while the latter drew TanHoldings.

IPI hosts All-Star Golf Tournament

Twenty celebrities from China are on Saipan to compete in the All-Star Golf Tournament.

The All-Star Golf Team, made up of filmmakers, actors, actresses, musicians, singers, models, athletes, and other known personalities in China, are out to test their par buster skills at the challenging Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo and the west and east courses of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman. The tournament started last Wednesday afternoon and will run for a week.

Imperial Pacific International and Kasco Golf Club are the sponsors of the competition with IPI hosting the event for the second straight time. In November last year, members of the same group also participated in a four-day tournament held at the Kingfisher and Laolao golf facilities.

Winners in this year's competition will receive prizes from Kasco Golf Club.

The All-Star Golf Team is a dynamic amateur golf squad in China and was founded in 2004 to promote happiness and healthiness of life by organizing amateur golf competitions and charity activities ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The All-Star Golf Team players pose for a photo before heading out to the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort course last Wednesday afternoon.

Yankees rally past Red Sox to complete sweep

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Celtics make East finals after dramatic Game 5 win

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GCA vs SIS for v-ball crown

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Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School will dispute the girls high school title in the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League after winning their respective semis matches last Wednesday.

The Eagles advanced to the finals after sweeping back-to-back champion Mt. Carmel School-1, 25-18, 27-25, at the Knights court in Chalan Kanoa, while the Geckos also took only two sets to oust MCS-2, 25-16, 25-15, at the SIS turf in As Lito. The Eagles-Geckos winner-take-all finale will be played today at 3:40pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

GCA held its ground against MCS-1' late rally in the second set to make it to the title game. Four points away from dethroning the Lady Knights and marching into the finals, 21-16, the Eagles missed closing out the semis match in regulation, as they failed to hold the several serves of MCS' Luisa Han.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Grace Christian Academy's Karena Torres, left, bends down to receive a serve from Mt. Carmel School-1 during the second set of their semis game in the girls high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League last Wednesday at the MCS court.

Han served after MCS-1 called a timeout and she got her first ace in the second set when the ball dropped at the backline. The Lady Knights went on to score 7 unanswered points to move 2 points away from securing the win and forcing a deciding third set, 23-21, as GCA could not figure out how to return Han's service.

The Mt. Carmel senior then went for her eighth serve, but this time her shot fell short, hitting the net and halting the Lady Knights rally, as the Eagles sliced the deficit to one, 22-23. GCA later tied the match after a hustle play from Kimmy Dilse, who chased down a ball that the Lady Knights thought was already dropping, as MCS-1 players had already turned their backs away from the play, getting ready to regain possession. Dilse managed to return the ball and this time caught MCS-1's defense flatfooted to knot the count, 23-all.

The Lady Knights then battled back from that miscue when Han spiked the ball and GCA received it, but a second shot (dink) from Cheska Dalusong hit the net, giving MCS-1 a 24-23 advantage. Jen Villagomez tried to finish off GCA with a spike, but her shot went wide to the sideline,

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Braves shut down Cubs

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Jylon Sablan had a no-no to power the NSA Braves to a 6-0 triumph over the Cubs in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Sablan pitched a complete game, walked one, and struck out 11. He had a 1-2-3 in three innings and with him on the mound, no Cubs runner reached past second base. The Braves ace complemented his solid pitching with a perfect performance at the plate, as he went 3-for-3 and recorded four RBIs, two doubles, and one run.

In other results, the Falcons also shut down the Comets, 13-0, off Joey Sharry's no-hitter.

Sharry pitched in all four innings and retired 10 batters in a flawless job on the mound. He struck out the Comets' first three

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An NSA Braves batter checks on the umpire after letting go off a low pitch during their game against the Cubs in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

KES reigns supreme in softball throw

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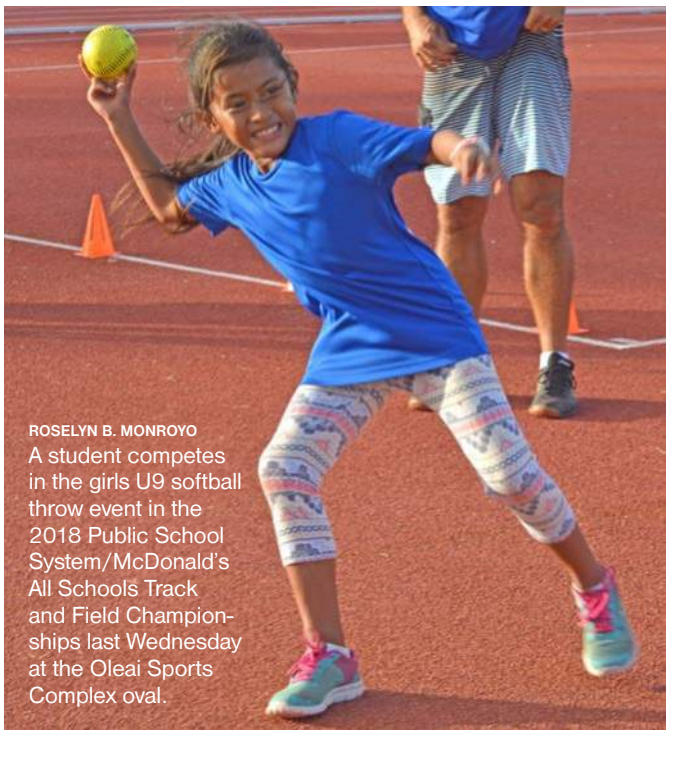

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A student competes in the girls U9 softball throw event in the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

A Top 3 finish in the boys U7 division set Koblerville Elementary School's domination in the softball throw event in the 2018 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex oval.

The Umangs' Javen Ewar, Mark Haven, and Vince Eusebio all made it to the podium of the boys U7 age group with the former having the best heave after recording 19.23m in his second and final throw. Haven and Eusebio registered 17.36m and 11.81m, respectively, to win the silver and bronze medals for KES. All results in Day 1 of the four-day competition were unofficial.

After the sweep in the boys U7 division, the Umangs went on to bag five more medals in the softball throw event, which was only for elementary school students.

In the girls U7 age group, the gold went to Tinian Elementary School's Kaisa San Nicolas (16.84m), while KES' Jackielyn Calagie (14.67) and Oleai Elementary School's Andresina Santos (13.72m) took the silver and bronze.

In the U9 division, William S. Reyes' Cayden Lizama (33.42m) prevailed in the boys contest, while Kagman Elementary School's Shamae Kileleman (22.41m) topped the girls field. Kileleman was joined in the podium by KES' Ashley Rasiang (18.73m) and Marcela Leaben (16.45m), while Tinian's Travis Borja (25.31m) and WSR's Luis Reyes (22.86m) rounded out the Top 3 in the boys division.

In the boys U11, Brilliant Star School had a 1-2 finish with Casey Chambers (38.60m) winning the gold and Tristan Raho (29.96m) getting the silver. KES' Skymark Defang earned the bronze after posting 29.94m. San Vicente duplicated Brilliant Star's feat in the girls competition, as Patty Mendiola (39.94m) and Ha'ani Passi (23.40m)

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